



Finding Freedom from Legalism

Notice: strict interpretation of law without understanding the spirit of values that underpin the law leads to **real problems**.

Legalism: is trying to live by a set of rules and regulations in an attempt to either be *justified* with or *live right* for God.

Religion about **ritual** without *relationship* produces a legalistic mindset that results in great **GUILT!!** Why? 2 Cor. 3:5-6

7 Ways of Finding Freedom from Legalism

1. You are “**Cut Free**” from Legalism by Christ. **Colossians 2:11**

Trying to live according to the law produces **guilt** and **bondage!**

Circumcision for:

<u>The Jews</u>	vs.	<u>The Believers</u>
• <i>external</i> physical Surgery	✓	<i>internal</i> - the ‘heart’
• only a part of the body	✓	the whole “body of sins”
• done by hands	✓	done without hands
• no spiritual help in conquering sin	✓	enables them to overcome sin

Paul says you don’t need physical circumcision **at all** for either *salvation* or *spirituality!* Christ is *all* you need!

2. You die to Legalism when you’re **baptized** with Christ. **Colossians 2:12**

3. You are “**born-again**” from Legalism with Christ **Colossians 2:13**.

4. All records of your wrongs are **canceled** in Christ. **Col. 2:14-15**

You are FREE from anything you might be *required* to do **to earn** your *salvation* or *sanctification*.

5. You must not accept **condemnation** in Christ **Colossians 2:16-17**

Romans 8:1-4

6. You must not let others **set your rules** in Christ **Col. 2:18-19**

7. You **are free** in Christ – **determine to live like it**. **Col. 2:20-23**

#1) These rules did not come from God; they were the inventions of men. (1 Tim 6:17) (1 Tim 4:3).

#2) You are going about it the wrong way.

⇒ Principles:

1. Christianity is more than do’s and don’ts.
2. It’s better to love than Judge.
3. It’s not about rules & religion, it’s about relationship!

So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Galatians 5:16 NLT

Sanctification works as we allow the Holy Spirit to live the Law of love through us. Christ in us the Hope of Glory

Next Week: Col. 3:1-11 Finding freedom from the Flesh.
(Next Sunday: Trunk or treat - Time 3-5pm)

Who is Jesus- Finding Freedom from Legalism

October's Memory Verse – *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.* **Colossians 1:27 (NLT)**

Monday 10/24- Read Colossians 2:11-15

Question: The Christian covenant with God is not sealed with the removal of a piece of flesh. What is removed symbolically through baptism?

Truth: *Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism,*

Meditate: Colossians 2:13- *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*

Prayer: Father God, my life is yours. Thank you for your forgiveness.

Action: Live to please God and bring glory to his Name.

What does God want **me** to do:

Tuesday 10/25- Read Colossians 2:16-23

Question: *“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?* Vs. 21

Truth: *Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.* Vs. 23

Meditate: Colossians 2:16– *Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink,...*

Prayer: Lord thank you for the freedom I have in trusting in you.

Action: Be thankful for the freedom I have in Christ.

What God is teaching me:

Wednesday 10/26- Read Romans 8:1-4

Question: *Why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?*

Truth: *because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.* Vs. 2

Meditate: Romans 8:3-4- *And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the sacrifice of your flesh has given freedom to my life in the Spirit.

Action: *do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

What God is telling me:

Thursday 10/27- Read Galatians 5:13-26

Question: How should I use my freedom in Christ?

Truth: *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.* Vs. 13

Meditate: Galatians 5:18- *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Prayer: Lord God, you saved me through the body and blood of Christ, continue to lead me and bless me through your Spirit.

Action: *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Vs. 14

What God is telling me:

Friday 10/28- Read Romans 14:1-23

Question: *You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.* Vs. 10

Truth: *So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

Meditate: Romans 14:19 - *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

Prayer: Father God, thank for all of your blessings.

Action: *Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.* Vs. 1

Who will I invite to church:

Life Group Outline- Who is Jesus, Why does it matter?

Fellowship and Praises-

Take **20-30 minutes** to share what God has been doing in your life this last week.

Bible verse memorization: *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.* Colossians 1:27 (NLT)

Bible Study Exercise: Read Colossians 2:11-23

They might look similar, but what is the difference between trying to live a life by *religious ritual* and living in *relationship* with Christ?

If I think that *scripture memorization* and doing *daily devotionals* is religious ritual, how do I change and use them as tools for developing a relation with Christ?

Read Romans 8:1-4

Discuss freedom in Christ.

We have both fleshly desires and spiritual desires. How do we go about living in the Spirit and not living to satisfy our fleshly desires?

Read Galatians 5:1-6

How is your faith being expressed through love?

Prayer Time- include prayers Gateway's Trunk or Treat And Auction/Dinner

Going Deeper: Read Galatians 5:1-26

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Real Application: Live free in Christ!