

Coming Weeks**This week, Oct 20: Legalism and Obedience****October 27: How we do Church and its dangers****November 3: Purity - Men and Women****November 10: Speech - Talking, gossip, crude, thought life (GIGO), conversations****November 16: Missions Banquet****Legalism, what do you think of?****1. Saved by obedience**

“because by the works of the Law NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

(Romans 3:20 LSB)

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”

(Romans 3:28 LSB)

“nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

(Galatians 2:16 LSB)

But what about...(James 2:14–26 LSB)

“What use is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead by itself.

But someone will say, “You have faith; and I have works. Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected. And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when

she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

2. creating laws that lead to legalism

“And they tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.”

(Matthew 23:4 LSB)

3. Spirit of Legalism

“The Pharisee stood and was praying these things to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’”

(Luke 18:11–12 LSB)

4. What’s the opposite of legalism?

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

(Romans 6:1–2 LSB)

So, having said all this, does this mean that “commands” of God in the NT are optional? Are you treating them as optional? (me too).

Is it legalistic to...

expect church members to come to church regularly?

How about Sunday School?

How about Homegroup?

Is it legalistic to tithe?

Is it legalistic to hold people accountable to the Church Covenant they signed?

Saved for Obedience

“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”

(Proverbs 27:17 LSB)

- Devoted to one another in brotherly love
 - Romans 12:10
- give preference to one another in honor
 - Romans 12:10
- love one another
 - Rom 13:8, 1 Thess. 3:12, 4:9, 2 Thess 1:3, Heb 10:24, 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8, 1 John 3:11, 3:23, 4:7, 4:11, 4:12, 2 John 5
- build up one another

- **Romans 14:19, 1 These 5:11**
- **Be of the same mind as one another**
 - **Romans 15:5**
- **accept one another**
 - **Romans 15:7**
- **admonish one another**
 - **Romans 15:14, Col 3:16**
- **Serve one another/Be hospitable**
 - **Gal 5:13, 1 Peter 4:9,10,**
 - **bearing with one another in love**
 - **Eph 4:2, Col 3:13**
- **kind to one another**
 - **Eph 4:32**
- **be subject to one another**
 - **Eph 5:21**
- **regard one another as more important than yourselves**
 - **Phil 2:3**
- **comfort one another**
 - **1 These 4:18, 5:11**
- **Live in peace with one another**
 - **1 These 5:13**
- **seek after that which is good for one another**
 - **1 These 5:15**
- **encourage one another**
 - **Heb 3:13, Heb 10:25**
- **do not groan against one another**
 - **James 5:9**
- **Confess to one another/pray for one another**
 - **James 5:16**
- **assemble together**
 - **Hebrews 10:25**

As with so many of the things in scripture, we tend to favor one extreme or the other. But Balance is required, always.

**"You are My friends if you do what I command you."
(John 15:14 LSB)**

Is doing what God commands legalism?

**“So then, you will know them by their fruits”
(Matthew 7:20 LSB)**

So we close with one question with three possible answers:

1. Are you obeying? Yes. Why?
 1. because I have to, because I need to do these things, because I want to be right with God, because I’m a better christian if I do, I want people to see me as a good christian... What’s the key word here? I
2. No. Why?
 1. I’m too busy.
 2. I do not have a desire to obey what God has commanded (called) me to do, I must question whether my faith is real.
3. Yes, Why?
 1. Because Christ....

Galatians 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. And the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Philippians 1:21 - **For to me, to live is Christ** and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:27 - **Only live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind contending together for the faith of the gospel,”

**“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 1:6 LSB)**

**“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”
(Philippians 2:12–13 LSB)**