

Holding Fast to Christ - Rejecting Legalism

February 26, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 2:16-19

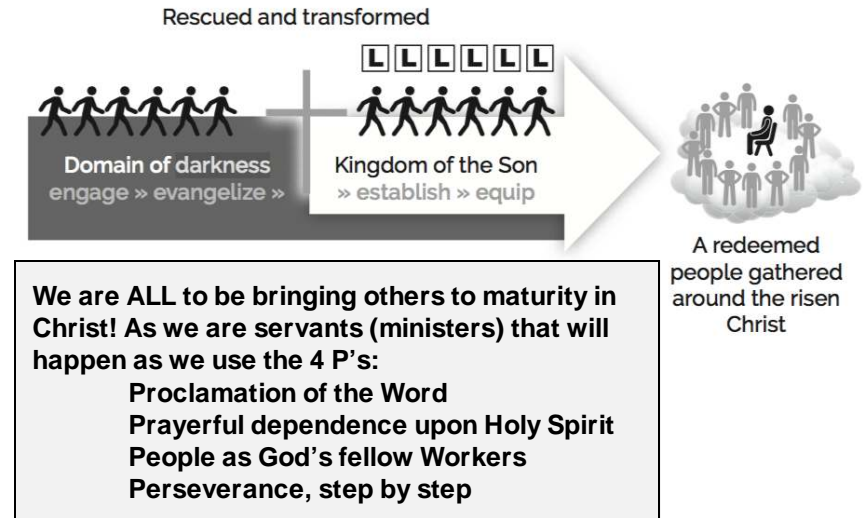
Pastor Mark W. Turner

What is legalism?

- the heart of legalism is pride. Positively pride in keeping certain standards and believing God is pleased because I do. Negatively judging others or self because they don't keep the standards.
- RC Sproul - 'legalism exalts the law above grace'

Truth: We grow best as believers by Holding fast to Christ the Head of the Body, His Church and rejecting legalism.

1. Reject Legalism as a way of Christian living
 - a. Legalism judges one's spirituality by external conformity to rules. 16,18
 - Old Covenant rules were shadows to point to God's holiness & Christ 17
 - New Covenant: Christ is the fulfillment Lk 24:44; 1 Cor 5:7
 - b. Legalists never keep the whole law, they pick & choose.
 - Jesus nailed the pharisees for picking & choosing - Mt 23:23-28
 - God cares about the attitude of our heart - Lk 18:13-14
 - c. Legalism grows from pride & leads back to pride.
 - Beware – let no one take the 'palm' from you – athletic reference
 - We don't need 'angels' or other messengers – Just Christ Alone!
 - v19 Hold fast to Christ - Heb 2:11; 4:15-16
2. Believers must hold to Christ as the Head of His Body, the Church
 - a. Holding fast to Christ means NOT being enamored with things other than Christ.
 - Holding to Christ not complicated : Col 2:6-7
 - Don't pursue the shadow 2:17, pursue the Head - Christ! Jn 5:39; Lk 24:27
 - b. Holding fast to Christ as Head means beginning with & maintaining our union with Him.
 - Hold fast to Christ=Gospel Truth. Organic relationship
 - Think of marriage - have to keep it growing
 - c. Holding fast to Christ as Head means submitting to Him as Lord
 - Christ is to control us as a Head controls the body.
 - Christ is Head, Savior and Lord of a believer's life! Phil 3:8; Col 2:6



Discuss & Apply:

1. Read 1 Tim 4:7. What is the difference between training (disciplining) yourself for the purpose of Godliness and legalism?
2. Why do so many Christian churches tolerate legalism? Why do some see legalistic rules as a 'virtue' rather than the sin of legalism?
3. Pastor used the example of teaching children to not run in the building. What are ways that we fall into legalism when doing this? What are good ways that we emphasize the love of Christ?
4. How do you explain to someone the difference between the disciplines of grace [daily Bible reading, attending church regularly, daily prayer, etc.] and legalism?
5. How does the simple Gospel help us combat legalism?