



Colossians 2:8-23



“Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy... based on the elemental forces of the world, not based on Christ”- Col. 2:8

Intellectualism

The love of or Zeal for knowledge or any discipline of learning

Modern forms:

- “I believe in Genesis & evolution.”
- “I quit believing in God my freshman year of college.”
- “I just don’t think an all-loving God would _____.”

Ritualism

Trying to win favor with God through deeds or repetitive actions usually based on fear or human wisdom

Modern forms:

- “If I just _____ then God will be happy with me.”
- “If I have my devotional time every morning I will be right with God.”



“Be careful that no one takes you captive through...deceit based on human tradition,...not based on Christ” - Col. 2:8

Hi, I'm
LEGALISTIC

“Therefore, don’t let anyone judge you in regard to food & drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah”
-Col. 2:16-17

Legalism

A strict adherence to a morality code, even some Biblical concepts, usually used in matters of fellowship.

HOW TO BECOME A LEGALIST

1. Make rules outside the Bible.
2. Push yourself to try and keep your rules.
3. Castigate yourself when you don’t keep your rules.
4. Become proud when you do keep your rules.
5. Appoint yourself as judge over other people.
6. Get angry with people who break your rules or have different rules.
7. “Beat” the losers.

Mysticism

Getting in touch with the deep spiritual side of Jesus' teachings usually through secret knowledge and/or meditation

Modern forms:

- “I feel that when I _____ I can actually feel God’s presence.”
- “When _____ happened I felt I had touch the face of God.”
- “Don’t drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.”



“Let no one disqualify you, insisting on ascetic practices & the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm & inflated without cause by his unspiritual mind.” - Col. 2:18

Asceticism

To abstain from all earthly pleasure in an attempt to please God by cutting out anything that could be seen as sin.

Most often seen in the training or health fitness world, but rarely in the western spiritual realm



**“Although these have a reputation of wisdom by promoting ascetic practices, humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value in curbing self-indulgence”
- Col. 2:23**

The Truth

- Christ is the full revelation of God. v9
- He dwells completely in followers. v10
- There is nothing not under His authority. v10
- We are made alive with Him. v13
- He erases our “sin debt.” v14
- Our “righteousness” is just a shadow.
He casts the shadow. v17
- In Christ we are dead to this world. v20

