

¹But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them,

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Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question... ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them...

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⁶The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe...

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¹¹But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

—Acts 15:1-2, 4, 6-7, 11 ESV

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¹Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ²I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel

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that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. ³But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—

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who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—⁵to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

—Galatians 2:1-5 ESV

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Judaizers = “Real Christians become good Jews!”

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In Christianity, the term “legalism” refers to

- (1) requiring works for salvation, which is the opposite of *sola fide* (faith alone).
- (2) emphasizing a system of rules and regulations for achieving spiritual growth. This is derived from the legal system of commandments, ordinances, and regulations contained in the Mosaic Law.

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Galatians 2:4-5
Legalism brings personal bondage and guilt on us.

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“In like manner do we offer to the papists all that is to be offered, yea, and more than we ought. Only we except the liberty of conscience which we have in Christ Jesus. For we will not suffer our conscience to be bound to any work so that by doing this thing, or that, we should be righteous, or leaving the same undone, we should be damned...

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For the matter which we have in hand is weighty and of great importance, even touching the death of the Son of God, who by the will and commandment of the Father was made flesh, was crucified, and died for the sins of the world. If faith in Him here give place, then is this death and resurrection of the Son of God in vain; it is but a fable that Christ is the Savior of the world.

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Our stoutness then in this godly and holy, for by it we seek to keep our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, and thereby to retain the truth of the gospel; which if we lose then we do also lose God, Christ all the promises, faith, righteousness and everlasting life.” —Martin Luther

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Galatians 2:11-14

Legalism leads to public hypocrisy and shame with others.

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“Legalism is a quickened outward compliance to Law without the inward commitment to Law.”

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Galatians 2:15-19

Legalism smacks at presumptive manipulation with God.

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²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

—Galatians 3:21-22 ESV

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“The modern manipulation of God is extremely subtle, but the heart of it lies in a kind of evangelical humanism. God is looked upon as existing to serve my ends; not I existing to serve God’s ends... Do I pray, attend church and tithe my income in order to receive special favors, or do I do those things out of realizing who

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God is and for the joy of obeying the majestic, glorious God of the universe? Do I seek to please Him in order that my loved one may be healed, or is it because I love Him so much I could not do otherwise? Do I write for 'my gain' or for 'God's glory' underneath everything I do for Him?"

—Glyn Evans, *Daily With the King*

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"Justification is the gracious act of God by which God declares a sinner righteous solely through faith in Jesus Christ."

—Platt and Merida

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"I died to the Law, so that I might live to God." —Galatians 2:19

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