

Practical Theology
Liberty in Christ vs. Legalism or License

How would you define “legalism” as applied to Christian living?

How would that differ from standards of Biblical holiness?

What is at the heart of all legalism?

Why is context important for the application of any law?

Why is a legalistic approach to holiness so divisive?

How would you define licentiousness as applied to Christian living?

How are legalism and licentiousness different from one another and how are they the same?

What is the purpose of the Law to mankind?

How is the Law helpful to Christians?

What is the “law of Christ?” List some of the other commands that are binding on Christians?

How is a specific command extended by principle? Give an example.

What is the responsibility of a Christian who is stronger in faith to a Christian who is weaker in faith?
(See Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; 10:23-33).

Read Romans 14:1-15:6; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; 8:1-13; 10:23-33, 1 Peter 2:16; Heb. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:3-6

What general principles can you derive from these passages about how to live a holy life in Christ without falling into either legalism or licentiousness?

Explain each of the following principles and their application in determining the boundaries of freedom in the pursuit of holiness?

Expedience - 1 Corinthians 6:12

Edification - 1 Corinthians 10:23

Excess - Hebrews 12:1-2

Enslavement - 1 Corinthians 6:12

Equivocation - 1 Peter 2:16

Example - 1 Corinthians 8:9

Evangelism - 1 Corinthians 10:25-33

Emulation - 1 John 2:5-6

Exaltation - 1 Corinthians 10:31