

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, June 15/16, 2017 Scott Fameli

Luke 11:37-54

What does it mean to be legalistic?

It is NOT legalistic to believe...

- One evidence of true salvation is a **changed life**. (Heb 12:11-14, Eph 5:5, Dt 10:12-13)
- The Christian life is a life of **obedience** guided by **commands**. (Phil 2:12, 1John 2:3)
- Our aim is **to please God** by the way we live. (2Cor 5:9)
- We are to use God's word to **lovingly warn** other professing Christians concerning their Holiness. (Col 3:5, Mat 5:30, Heb 3:13, Ez3:17-19)

It IS legalistic to ...

- Be overly scrupulous about behaviors that are not **exclusively prohibited** or commanded in the Bible. (Rom 14)
- To fail to see that the OT Mosaic systems of law **are not binding** upon NT Christians. (Heb 8:13, Rom 7:6)
- Treat the law or any moral behavior as **the grounds** for God's full acceptance of you. (Rom 8:3, Gal 5:2)

Jesus Addresses Arrogance and Ignorance

1. Clean hands **absent** of a clean heart is not holiness. Internal purity (**holy matters of the heart**) give us something **to offer** those who need the Gospel. V37-41
2. Doing the minimum required by law does not make you **just**, nor do outward appearances that gain you attention make you **loving**. The pure sacrifice of Christ on the cross provided an unattainable justice for the **unjust** and unconditional love for the **unlovable**. V42-43 (Isa 1:17)
3. The **life change** that comes through the Gospel is not just to shine God's glory and goodness on your life, but to bring glory to God and the hope of God's goodness **to others**. V44
4. Legalism is often **hypocritical**; placing excessive expectation upon others that you have no intention on burdening **yourself** with, **helping** others with or both. V45-46
5. When we **idolize** the prophets and not the God of the prophets, **we miss** the warnings, promises and truth God sent them to proclaim. V47-51

6. It is an offense to God and a **spiritual crime** against yourself and others to take away the loving and redeeming warnings, promises and truths of God. This crime is committed **both** with arrogance and ignorance. V47-51
7. Self-serving legalism leads to the **oppression** of others. It is also the battle between two kingdoms; the Kingdom of **God** and the kingdom of **self**. V52
8. The world is full of **self-sovereigns**. My heart should break in **repentance** for myself and in **intercession** others. (Psalm 51:17)
9. Our job is to point people to Jesus – with correction, warnings and encouragements, but always **motivated with love** and executed with complete patience and teaching. (2Tim 2:24-26, 4:2-4)
10. Our response to the arrogant, the ignorant AND to God's word will reveal our **motives**, our **truths** and our **gospel**. V53-54 (Prov 9:8, 12:1, 13:1, 15:5, 12, 32)

GROWING NOTES

- At some level and in ways big and small we are all guilty of religious arrogance and spiritual ignorance. Discuss what our notes say being legalistic is and isn't.
- Read the text (Luke 11:37-54). What stands out to you. Did Jesus suggest there was anything that the Pharisees and Lawyers got right? What did they clearly get wrong and why?
- We defined legalism (in a negative sense) as both self-serving and oppressive. As a victim or perpetrator, what has been your experience with this type of legalism inside and outside of the church?
- If there is such a thing as a healthy form of legalism, how would those things described in the beginning of our notes as "It is NOT legalistic to believe..." serve our call as Christians to "go and make disciples..." while bringing glory to God and good to ourselves and those around us (believers and non-believers alike)? Use the scriptures given and the following verses as a reference to explore the width and depth of the answer. (2Tim 2:24-26, 4:2-4, Prov 9:8, 12:1, 13:1, 15:5, 12 & 32 and 1Peter 1:18-23)