

**Beware of the
Dangers of Legalism**

What Is Legalism?

1. Legalism is the view that man is justified by keeping the law.
2. A legalist is someone who behaves as if they can earn God's approval through personal performance.
3. Legalism is any system whereby the merits of man contribute in any way to his standing with God.

What Is Legalism?

4. Legalism can effect one's understanding of justification and/or sanctification.

Definition of Sanctification

Sanctification is that continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which the holy disposition imparted in regeneration is maintained and strengthened.

Matthew 23:23-28

Christ denounced the legalism of the Pharisees for:

1. Showcasing their self-righteousness (v. 23a).
2. Stressing minor things (vv. 23-24).
3. Emphasizing the externals (vv. 25-28).
4. Focusing on human tradition instead of the inspired Word (Matthew 15:2-3; Mark 7:8-9).

Conclusion

Legalism is not necessarily:

1. Having rules or standards in the home, church, or school.
2. Seeking to live a consecrated Christian life.
3. Practicing the spiritual disciplines.
4. Holding to personal convictions.

Conclusion

Legalism is:

1. Following the law or man-made rules to be justified.
2. Assuming conformity to rules brings spirituality.
3. Making extra-biblical rules as normal standards and requirements for all.