

“Legalism”

*Are we “legalists” by emphasizing
respect for and obedience to
Divine law?*

“Legalism”

1. Respect for and adherence to law
2. Salvation through law-keeping rather than through faith in Jesus Christ

*Weren't the Pharisees "legalists" and
did not Jesus condemn them for it?*

- **YES** - If as sole means to justification
Rom 3:19-23
- **NO** - If mean "too strict adherence to
law" Mt 5:19-20; 15:1-9; 23:1-3

Didn't Paul oppose those who supported law keeping?

- **YES** - If as sole means to justification
Rom 3:19-25
- **NO** - If mean respect for & obedience to law - Rom 3:23,29; 6:12-15...23 (I Jn 3:4); 13:8-10
- Note: “Love” & “spirituality” recognize Law! I Jn 5:3; Gal 6:1 (“trespass”), 8

*Wasn't the law nailed to the cross and
we now live under grace?*

- **Moses'** law - Col 2:14-17
- “Letter kills” = OT, not respect for and
obedience to law - 2Co 3:6,7

(“legalism” is sometimes defined as
“*adherence to letter of the law rather
than the spirit*”)

Wrong views of LAW

- Substitute human laws for Divine; teach but not do
- Justified by keeping law apart from faith in Christ
- We are under Law of Moses
- *There are no laws (rules, regulations) for the Christian* **I Jn 3:4**

“Legalism” is **NOT**
Obedience out of faith

Mt 28:18-20; 2 Th 1:8;

Jam 2:14f;