

LEGALISM IS NOT LEGAL

Weeds of Legalism

Galatians 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! (NIV)

Weeds of Legalism that like to pop up:

We make Christianity difficult rather than simple

Luke 19:10 The son of man came to find lost people and save them. (NCE)

Colossians 1:28 We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. (The Message)

You need to know how to act in church, in order to come to church

Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (NIV)

Everyone has to be like me after salvation

1 Cor 12:14-20 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

One sure way to help wipe out weeds of legalism:

Cheer and Encourage one another instead of criticizing one another

Heb 10:24-25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIV)

CG Questions

1. What are some legalistic issues that you have dealt with in the past?
2. Do you embrace diversity, or do you want people to be just like you? What are some ways we can embrace diversity?
3. What are some ways we can help keep our church free from legalism?
4. What are some ways we can encourage others around us?