



What Is Legalism?

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What Is Legalism?

- **Defining Terms:**
 - **Not a word found in the Bible.**
 - **First use – 1645 A.D.**
 - **Only after Martin Luther came up with Faith Only.**
 - **Legalism is normally thrown around when someone points out “that we ought to be *doing* what God says we should *do*, to the chagrin of someone else” (David McClister).**

What Is Legalism?

- Is obeying God's rules legalism?
 - Sometimes legalism is used to describe a person who believes we must do something to get right with God.
 - Jesus said having faith *is* doing what God said. **John 6:27-29**
 - God linked hearing to believe and obedience. **Deuteronomy 6:1-3**
 - Obedience is linked to salvation. **Phil. 2:12-13**

What Is Legalism?

- Is legalism being strict with God's rules?
 - Sometimes used to describe a person who is focusing too much on "external obedience."
 - God takes His rules pretty seriously.
Lev. 10:1-3
 - God instructs His people to be exact with His word. **Josh. 1:7; 2 Tim. 2:15**
 - Inward motivation and external obedience are required. **Jer. 17:10**

What Is Legalism?

- So, what is legalism?
 - An empty term.
 - A term thrown around at those who do not believe in “faith only.”
 - A term thrown around at brethren who are being conscientious about obedience.
 - The term legalism is imprecise.
 - Legalist “really means “you do not conform to *my* idea of how Christianity saves us.”

What Is Your Need?

Salvation

Believe

(**John 8:24**)

Repent

(**Luke 13:3**)

Confess

(**Matthew 10:32-33**)

Be Baptized

(**Mark 16:16**)

Restoration

Repent

(**Acts 8:22**)

Confess

(**1 John 1:9**)

Pray

(**Acts 8:22**)

Needs

Prayer?

(**James 5:16**)

Membership?

(**Acts 9:26**)