



Lifeline

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena



Are You a Legalist?

*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
(John 14:15)*

The one thing conservative followers of the Bible dread is being labeled a "legalist." Legalism is a term that is often misunderstood and used by those who want freedom from following the Bible. Associated with legalism is the picture of a person who is narrow minded, judgmental, always pointing out what is wrong and, worst of all, a modern day Pharisee. To be called a legalist is not a compliment. It is a prejudicial term that shuts down discussions, closes doors and is considered a strict and dying sect that no one on the outside wants anything to do with.

I have heard of folks walking away from churches and their parting shot is "they are legalists." Most times, these folks dance merrily off to places where the Bible isn't followed closely at all and just about anything and everything is allowed. They rejoice in their new found freedom never realizing that they are drinking the poison of error and are setting a new course apart from God.

Our verse today is not a call for legalism. Jesus wants us to obey Him. Over and over the New Testament states this. John wrote, "And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in Him" (1 John 3:24). He writes in the second letter, "Any one who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 Jn 9). In Hebrews, "and having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation" (Heb 5:9). The apostles were instructed to go into all the world and preach the Gospel,

*"teaching them to observe all that I commanded you"
(Matthew 28:20).*

God wants us to obey Him. There is no getting around that. To believe that it doesn't matter what we do, is simply ignoring what the Bible specifically teaches. A church that is just wanting to do what the Bible teaches and nothing else and nothing more, is not legalistic. It's Bible based. The proper word is "Biblical."

Can I obey Jesus without being a legalist? Can I do what He wants me to do? Can I hope and pray that everyone else also just obeys Jesus? What a great world we would live in today if everyone just obeyed Jesus. Wanting what God desires is not legalism. Obedience is not legalism. Those that drop that term so often do not understand the word that they are using, nor do they understand the desires of God, and worse, by their very misuse of that word, they are lawless. They are doing things without the permission or the authority of God. Jesus was asked "by what authority are you doing these things and who gave you that authority?" That was a fair question. Who's in charge? Who is making up the rules? If not God, then who?

We need to obey Christ. That is how our faith and love to Him is expressed. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light..." is how John began his statements about fellowship. Following Christ is not a bad thing. One should never have to apologize for doing what God tells them to do.

Jesus did not rebuke the Pharisees for obeying God. He rebuked them for being hypocrites and for putting their traditions above the law. Their traditions, were just that,

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

theirs. It wasn't from Heaven. It's how they saw things. They made up rules, laws and ways folks had to do things. If those weren't followed, then they judged others as being wrong. After amazing miracles in the synagogues, instead of praising God and blessing Jesus, the Pharisees criticized Jesus because He broke their Sabbath traditions. The bent over woman, the man with the withered hand—just a couple of examples of Pharisees complaining to Jesus about what day of the week He was healing people on. That was the problem in the N.T. It wasn't because folks were obeying God. The Pharisees were hypocrites. They expected others to do what they weren't doing themselves. Hypocrisy and man's traditions can trip us. They can get in the way of obeying God. Traditions change. Traditions come and go. Traditions do not fit everyone, nor in every situation. God's word does. There is a major difference between traditions and obedience to Christ. I am not a legalist because I obey Jesus. He wants me to.

The opposite of perceived legalism, is bending the rules to fit our needs. In such cases, lying might be ok. If it avoids getting a speeding ticket, in trouble with your wife, or boss, a little lying is ok. Really? Who decided this? Yet, if a person declares, you should never, ever lie, that person is called a legalist. God said we should not lie. Does obeying God make a person a legalist?

The Bible doesn't specifically say anything about the church using its money to send kids to camp or to do some social things, as long as the results are good, we shouldn't be too fussy about being so strict about things. That's the counter to obeying God. For someone to say, where does the Bible show us that we can use our collected money to send kids to camp, immediately someone will shout, "legalist." Wanting to stick with God and the Bible is not legalism. The proper word is "obedience." The word is "Biblical."

NO OFFENSE, NO EFFECT

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34)

Some folks came to me one time and said, "We need a preacher for our congregation." I said, "I know just the guy. He is a fantastic preacher and has a fiery evangelistic spirit, but he has health problems and he's kind of old." I continued, "He's also been in jail several times." They began to shake their heads, and one said, "Well, we don't know whether he's the man we want or not."

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena

When folks flee from obedience for fear of being labeled a legalist, then the barn doors are opened and anything and everything happens. Who ever is in charge makes the rules. They will do what they want. I've seen it go so far as allowing women to preach, claiming folks do not have to be baptized to be saved, to the church running car washes and looking and acting just like every other modern church today. They smile because "we are not legalists."

I simply want to obey Christ. He knows what I am like and what I need. He is the one who will save me. He is the one who my hope is in. He was obedient to His Father in all things. He pleased His Father. I want to be like that. I will be labeled a legalist by those who want to be lawless. They will misuse that word because they do not understand that word. They will call me narrow and strict. Yet, didn't our Lord first use those words when He said the way was narrow that leads to life? Truth tends to be narrow. One and one is two. That's narrow. If I am not narrow, then what am I? Open to any and every idea? Happy to do things that God never said to do? On the broad and wide path that leads to destruction?

I think to soothe the conscience of some, it is easier to point the finger at obedient people and call them legalists. Our faith, our relationship and our fellowship with God is all defined by our connection to His word. I cannot be right with God and wrong with the Bible. How can I say I love God, yet I disobey what He says? Follow Christ. Be imitators of Christ. Imitate God's love. Forgive just as God has forgiven us in Christ. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loves the church. Over and over the New Testament teaches us to follow Christ. Do what Christ did. Have this attitude or mind in you as Christ did. It never speaks of doing things differently than Christ. It never calls upon us to be unique or different. It never calls obedience legalism.

I simply want to obey Christ. Don't you? ☞

-Roger Shouse
-Jump Start # 1856

I said, "Well, don't worry; you couldn't get him. He's already in heaven, and his name is Paul."

You don't want a guy who can rub shoulders with the people of this world and not rub any salt in their wounds. Where there is no offense, there is no effect.

Pray for the men who occupy the pulpits in our churches that they would not water down the truth of God's Word, but be strong to proclaim its power. ☞

-Selected

<http://www.churchofChristinGalena.com>



Why Did Jesus Come to Die? ... To Give Us Access to the Holy Places

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."⁷ (Hebrews 10:19-22)

There Is No Plan B (Romans)

Introduction: In our culture the idea of equality of persons has subtly shifted to an equality of ideas, beliefs, practices. Since everyone has equal value everything each one thinks and believes is of equal value and validity. In the context of faith and religion, this produces a pluralistic society claiming that everyone is right (in their own way) and no one is wrong. The only sin is to suggest that one's ideas might actually be more valid than another's.

I. Truth #1: _____ You Know Has _____ God's Testimony

- A) Romans 1:18-20 - God has created the universe in such a way that it is a testimony of God's very existence.
- B) Psalm 19:1-6 Heavens declare God's glory and proclaim His handiwork.

II. Truth #2: _____ You Know Has _____ God

- A) Romans 1:21-32 describes how people have reacted to God.
- B) Ephesians 2:1-3 describes us all (Titus 3:3).
- C) Everyone has rejected God.

III. Truth #3: _____ You Know Is _____ Before God

- A) Romans 3:23 is pointed. Because we have all fallen short of God's glory, we are all guilty. We do not get to compare ourselves to each other. We must compare ourselves to God. We are all guilty (Rom. 3:9-20).
- B) Ephesians 2:1-3 - We are all condemned. There are no exceptions.

IV. Truth #4: Everyone you know has been condemned for rejecting God.

- A) Romans 5:16, 18; 5:12; 6:23 - Everyone stands condemned before God.
- B) Romans 2:1 - Every person we know has sinned and stands condemned before God. Romans 2:12 explains why this is so bad.

V. Truth #5: God Has Made a Way of _____ for Everyone You Know

- A) Bleak news, but there is good news (Romans 3:21-26).
- B) God offers us that gift in the person and propitiation of His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 3:25; 5:6-11).
- C) The great news is offered to everyone (Romans 1:16; 2:11; 4:9-12).

VI. Truth #6: Everyone Can Only Come to God through _____ in Jesus

- A) Romans 1:16 says the gospel is God's power to save.
- B) Romans 9:15, 18; Romans 9:30-10:3
- C) John 14:6; Acts 4:11-12

VII. Truth #7: No One You Know Will Have _____ in Jesus _____

- A) But there is another part to God's Plan A.
- B) That is us (Romans 10:13-17)
- C) Why did God do it this way? He still used people to provide the message.
- D) Is that unfair? There is no injustice with God

Conclusion: Everyone you know has seen God's testimony. They have all rejected God. They are all guilty before God. They are all condemned because of their guilt. But God has a plan to save us all and that Plan A is Jesus Christ. So if we only get to the Father through Jesus Christ, how do we get in Jesus Christ? (Romans 6:1-4)

Kingdom of Christ Is Here (Matthew 16:16-18)

Introduction: The word “kingdom” is used many times throughout scripture and has various meanings based on the context of the passage. This becomes confusing to people and brings about multiple mistranslations and applications not referenced or intended by the specific text. The kingdom we need to understand and be subject to is the kingdom of Christ.

I. God's Kingdoms in Scripture

- A) Physical kingdom. His natural laws govern all animal and vegetable life.
- B) Ethical or moral kingdom (Ps. 103:19; Dan. 4:25, 32, 34-36; Ps. 22:28; 93:2)
- C) Kingdom of fleshly Israel (2 Samuel 5:12; 1 Kings 9:3-7; 11:11)
- D) Eternal kingdom – heaven (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:11)
- E) God's kingdom of Christ – the church

II. The Kingdom and the _____

- A) Various terms refer to the same thing.
- B) Because the word “church” and the word “kingdom” do not mean the same it does not necessarily follow that they are not the same thing.
- C) “Church and “kingdom” do refer to the same thing (Matthew 16:16-18).

III. The Kingdom of Heaven “at _____”

- A) In the early part of the first century, inspired men were announcing to the world: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - 1. John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2)
 - 2. Jesus (Matt. 4:17)
 - 3. The apostles (Matt. 10:7)
- B) The definition of “at hand”: _____
- C) Kingdom time was fulfilled in 1st century
- D) Kingdom began on Pentecost 24 May 33 AD
 - 1. Time is fulfilled (Mark 1:14-15)
 - 2. Passages before Pentecost speak of kingdom as being in the future.
 - 3. All passages after Pentecost speak of the kingdom as being already established (Col. 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:6, 9)

IV. The Kingdom _____ Established

- A) Four verses prove the kingdom is now in existence.
 - 1. Mark 9:1 2. Acts 1:8 3. Acts 2:1-4 4. Colossians 1:13
- B) The kingdom is just a figure for the church that helps us to understand something of the nature of the church.

V. Kingdom _____ Illustrate It Is Established

- A) The kingdom parables do not make sense.
- B) Seven parables about the kingdom in Matthew 13.
 - 1. Wheat and tares (Matt. 13:24)
 - 2. Mustard seed (Matt 13:33)
 - 3. Leaven (Matt. 13:35)
 - 4. Hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44)
 - 5. Pearl of great price (Matt. 13:45)
 - 6. Drag net (Matt. 13:47)
 - 7. Householder (Matt. 13:52)

Conclusion: The kingdom of God has been established and is in existence right now. All can be members of this kingdom by means of the new birth (John 3:3, 5).



Have you ever been driving in an unfamiliar area in complete confusion? Perhaps you had been given directions to a place “you can’t miss.”

In your frustrations you tossed aside “those useless directions.”

We’ve all been there.

Similarly, in a spiritual sense, many people are wandering around lost, without bothering to read the directions. In Jesus’ compassion for the multitudes He said they were like “sheep without a shepherd.”

There is only ONE way to heaven. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

It’s important for us to READ THE DIRECTIONS (i.e. the Bible).

As your friends here at the church of Christ we want you to know we are all on the road of life together.

This is a place where you can stop and ask for directions and a place, “Where You’re Always Welcome!”

"Oh Be Careful Little . . .



VBS NEXT WEEK!

Shut In Members:

Marjorie Dodge &
Grace Singleton

Friends & Family Members:

Beatrice Buchanan
Stewart Dodge
Eric Foushee
Kay Gegenheimer
Ray Gilbert
Wilma Hudson
Jan King
Anne Loughmiller

Joyce Manning
Jerry Maudlin
Stacie Rothrock
Allison Unruh

Philippine Evangelists:

Leonido
Balballoza
Vicente Cay
Edwin de Pedro
David N. Varona

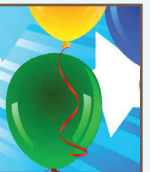
PRAY FOR...

...**Stella Bishop** from Borden, IN had a stroke. last Sunday she has been in Baptist East in Louisville, KY.

OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO...

...the Eveline family with the passing of Junior.

HELP OUT WITH VBS DECORATING NEXT WEEK



ZECHARIAH
VISION OF COMING KINGDOM

W PROPHETABLE F LIFE MAJOR | from the MINOR LESSONS | PROPHETS

READ ZECHARIAH FOR WEDNESDAY!

THIS WEEK

Barker May 21 st	Dowling May 28 th	Loughmiller June 4 th	Mitchell April 30 th	Scott May 7 th	Stout May 14 th
Farmer Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, B. Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny Culver	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.

JUNE SERVANTS

Building Cleaning & Communion:

D. Woolbright & Ryan Woolbright

Benevolence Organizers:

Mitchell & Sieg



JUNE

2 - Helen Bailey B'day
4 - Mike & Belinda
Loughmiller
8 - Jonas Loughmiller
10 - Evelyn Loughmiller
11 - Madelynn Dowling
13 - Mary Beth Maudlin
16 - Ruth McKinney

21 - Nick & Carla
Loughmiller
24 - Shanon & Desirae
Miller
25 - Gus & Carmen
Schoenbaechler
28 - Belinda Loughmiller
29 - Amy Loughmiller
29 - Jessica Scott

BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena

SERVING IN WORSHIP

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (05/28)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Jim Hudson

Song Leader: Jeff Farmer

Lord's Table: Daryn Barker (Lead)
E. Mitchell, Donny Sieg, M. Loughmiller

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Randy Scott

Sunday PM (05/28)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Scott Mitchell

Song Leader: Ryan Woolbright

Lord's Table: Daryn Barker (Lead)
E. Mitchell

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Evan Mitchell

Wednesday (05/31)

Announcements: Keith Keehn

1st Prayer: Benny Loughmiller

Song Leader: Dylan Culver

Invitation: Tim Maudlin

Closing Prayer: Bill Buchanan

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (06/04)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Keith Keehn

Song Leader: Seth Shaffer

Lord's Table: Scott Mitchell (Lead)
Don Sieg, S. Miller, M. Stout

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: R. Woolbright

Sunday PM (06/04)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Randy Scott

Song Leader: Dale Woolbright

Lord's Table: Scott Mitchell (Lead)
Don Sieg

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Mike Loughmiller

Wednesday (06/07)

Announcements: VBS

1st Prayer: Daryn Barker

Song Leader: Shannon Shaffer

Invitation: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Benny Loughmiller

Shepherds:

Bill Buchanan

Cell: (812) 989-5961

billbuchanan@insightbb.com

Dale Woolbright

Cell: (812) 989-1483

rdwoolbright@gmail.com

Deacons:

Daryn Barker

Cell: (502) 396-3063

darynb81@sbcglobal.net

Kyle Dowling

Cell: (812) 989-2211

kmdowl01@gmail.com

Mike Loughmiller

Cell: (812) 267-9254

loughmiller6@aol.com

Scott Mitchell

Cell: (812) 620-4034

stblessedwith4@gmail.com

Randy Scott

Cell: (812) 620-3747

countingourmanyblessings@gmail.com

Michael Stout

Cell: (502) 939-9525

cnotes@otherside.com

Evangelist:

Shannon Shaffer

Cell: (615) 289-1721

shafferlifeline@gmail.com

CHURCH of CHRIST at Galena

Lifeline

Meeting at

5466 Featheringill Road
Greenville, IN 47124

Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM

Bible Classes: 10:00 AM

Worship: 3:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

Website

[http://churchofChrist
inGalena.com](http://churchofChristinGalena.com)