

Enemy  
**LEGALISM**

*Matthew 5:20-48; 23:1-4*

**LAW:** Following a particular set of rules will make you acceptable in God's sight.

- Usually their rules are something designed by man. The rules can be seen externally which is most important.
- The LEGALISTS say, "You cannot preach grace, or you'll set people on a path of sin".
- Contrary to general belief, legalism has a low view of God's law in general, because it views any law as obeyable.
- Focus on self will lead to dissension in the Body of Christ. Tends to be judgmental
- Legalism is fundamentally self-centered:
  1. "I keep the rules."
  2. "I gain approval by what I do."
  3. "I get to judge those who do not meet MY standard."
- Legalism enslaves those who practice it:
  1. Having to follow a strict set of rules in order to be acceptable by God.
  2. Constant wondering if one is failing or not.Christ has freed us from all of that!

Enemy  
**LICENSE**

*Galatians 5:13-15; Romans 6*

**LICENSE:** God places no claims on the way you should live. License is freedom with no responsibility.

- If you are a child of God, you cannot do as you please; you must do as Christ pleases.
- Where legalism demands responsibility without freedom, license grants freedom without responsibility.
- Christ did not die for us so we would indulge the desires of the flesh.
- We must not sin by using our freedom in Christ as an occasion to please the flesh.
- Some hear about God's free grace and hope it means they can sin as much as they want
- License is fundamentally self-centered.
- Anyone who uses freedom to indulge the flesh is not free at all.
- At its core license is selfish, enslaving, and self-destroying..
  1. Holds to the false concept that freedom is the same as living without responsibility.
  2. Holds to the false concept that love does not require commitment.

Freedom  
**LIBERTY**

*Romans 14 (weaker brother/sister); Galatians 5:1; 2 Corinthians 3:17*

**LIBERTY:** Our liberty before God is rooted in our union with Christ. We have freedom in Christ, but it is a freedom to obey Him.

- Our relationship to the OT Law has changed. Christ fulfilled the Law (**Mt.5:17-18; Ro.10:4**). We are now under the law of Christ.
- Because of love we want to avoid sin (**1Co.9:21**).
- Real liberty comes when Christ frees us from sin, not to sin.
- God has called us to freedom:
  1. Freedom from the power of sin.
  2. Freedom from the power of self.
- Our freedom is not an end in itself. We are called to lovingly serve one another (**Ga.6:2**).
- Tends to be Grace-oriented
- "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not again be put under the control of a yoke of slavery" (**Ga.5:1**)

