

102 G. Stand for God & against legalism.

1 Peter 2:15, For it is God's will, that by doing good, you will silence the ignorant talk of fools.

Legalism is the act of putting law; real, or unfounded, made up & believed by man, above the true gospel of Christ, by establishing requirements for salvation, e.g. you must do this, or that, or be some way, or another, by man's ideals, which reduces the Bible to rigid moral codes & forgets that repentance & faith in Jesus, are the only requirements for salvation, not how much bible we know, or how spiritual we act, talk, dress, or any other man made notion.

When we talk to others about spiritual matters, we must make sure it is from scripture, for as

long as we take it from the bible, without adding, or deleting, then we cannot help but to speak it perfect, as it is the perfect word of God, no matter what order, as long as it is left complete.

One problem with legalistic proof reading, of people's lives & knowledge by self-righteous

Christians, is that it has caused so many to turn away from God, or to be lukewarm for Christ, out of a fear to speak the word, or even to ask questions, as they know legalist men are waiting

to judge them, or say things, as there is no more tolerated, or widespread sin, as legalism.

Both Jesus & Paul hated legalism & had massive conflicts with legalists & this legalism, which is man's attempt to gain favor with God, or to impress others. by doing certain things, or avoiding certain things, without regard to the condition of our hearts before God.

Christ, deliberately spoke & worked against the legalists. He could have healed people on any day, but He often did it on the Sabbath. He could have been more discreet in violating the Pharisees' legalistic rules, but He did it openly.

When a Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner, He could have done their elaborate handwashing, but He ignored it & When questioned, He could have been more polite, but He blasted them for their hypocrisy.

When a lawyer pointed out Jesus had offended them, He didn't say, "I'm sorry! I didn't mean to offend you" He said, "Woe to you lawyers as well!" Jesus confronted legalism as sin & yet many churches are riddled with it, as many are too timid to stand up to the legalists, as somehow, we think that to be like Jesus means always being nice, never offending, or confronting, which is not biblical.

If we want to be like Jesus, we must learn to confront legalism, in an understandable manner, as in witnessing to others, we are going to hear all kinds of false beliefs on religion.

We must stand down these legalistic barriers & stop making unbiblical rules about how things should be done & start letting Gods people do what must be done, in accordance with God.

Do not be afraid, ashamed, or embarrassed to ask & talk about anything to do with God, or His

word, no matter what others think; especially if they are more educated, as they will either be

with God & glad to talk with & help you, or they will be legalists, who think they're living by His word & rules, but they're not & you with your growing knowledge & questions are much closer to God, than any that boast knowledge & right ways in their own eyes.

So be bold in Christ, as you learn by asking & this is the most important relationship you will ever be in, so do your part, pray, ask & learn and carry it forward. Learn to let God work through you, as you work through Him.