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May 25, 2025

Focus Question

What is Paul's warning to us about legalistic religion?

Religious legalism is the belief that a person can _____ or _____ a right standing with God through strict adherence to rules, laws, or religious practices usually of a man-made type.

Gal. 1:10: For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

1. **Don't let _____ - _____ condemn you.**
Col. 2:16-17

2. **Don't allow religious _____ to rule against you.**
Col. 2:18-19

3. **Stop the _____ of _____ - _____ religion.**
Col. 2:20-23

4. **Practice _____ - _____ devotion.**
Col. 2:17b, 19a, 20b

Application Questions:

How have you allowed shadow worshippers and religious referees to intimidate you? Are you a shadow worshipper or religious referee? What futile religious rules keep you from a fulfilling relationship with Jesus?

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- 1. Read Colossians 2:16-23. Where does God stop you and why?**
- 2. Has there been any shadowy religious stuff that you have allowed others to adversely judge you about. Or, have you adversely judged others over shadowy religious stuff?**
- 3. What is the difference between shadow and substance?**
- 4. What are some religious experiences you have embraced that turned out to be substitutes for Jesus?**
- 5. What are some actions or attitudes you simply need to stop because they are not serving to bring you closer to Jesus? What are the “do not handle, do not taste, do not touch” things in your life?**