

## Errors of The Pharisees

Legalism

## Introduction

- Legalism - glaring error of the Pharisees, best-known Jewish party of Jesus' day
- Known for their careful attitude toward strictly following the Law as they understood it
- Contrast with Sadducees, other well-known Jewish party of the day

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## Pharisees Contrasted With Sadducees

Act 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

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## Introduction

- Pharisees displayed sinful attitudes of hypocrisy and legalism
- Our concern for strictly following the gospel can also lead us into the same errors
- Goal of these lessons – learn what mistakes they made and how we can avoid them today

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## Be Careful To Follow All His Word

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

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## Be Careful To Follow All His Word

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

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## Be Careful To Follow All His Word

Mat 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

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## Legalism

Nature  
Cause  
Effects  
Cure

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## Charge of Legalism

- Often, those who desire to strictly follow the Word are accused of being "legalistic"
- But, we have noted Jesus praised those who would be careful about follow every commandment
- What then does legalism mean and when do we become guilty of it?

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## What Is Legalism?

"2. The doctrine of salvation by works, as distinguished from that by grace"

(New Illustrated Webster's Dictionary of the English Language, pg. 559)

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## Cause of Legalism - Pride

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 18:9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

Luk 18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 18:11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'

Luk 18:12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 18:13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

Luk 18:14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him.

Luk 15:2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes *began* to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luk 15:21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:22 "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;

Luk 15:23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

Luk 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:25 "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

Luk 15:26 "And he summoned one of the servants and *began* inquiring what these things could be.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'

Luk 15:28 "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:29 "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and *yet* you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends;

Luk 15:30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 15:31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.

Luk 15:32 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found.'"

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined *at the table*.

Luk 7:37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining *at the table* in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:38 and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

Luk 7:39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner." 23

## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:40 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher."

Luk 7:41 "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

Luk 7:42 "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."

Luk 7:44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:45 "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

Luk 7:46 "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

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## Effects of Legalism

Luk 7:47 "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

Luk 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

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## Cure For Legalism – Loving Obedience To All His Word

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Luk 17:10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.'"

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## Cure For Legalism – Confession of Sins

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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