

Galatians 4:12-20

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An Appeal to Reject Legalism from the example of
Paul's ministry

What legalism is not

1. The Christian expectation to reject the influence of the world is not legalism. - Galatians 3:1-4
1. The Christian expectation of rejecting sin and calling it by name is not legalism -Galatians 5:18-21
1. The Christian expectation to follow the lead of The Spirit of God and to live in harmony with each other is not legalism - Galatians 5:22-26

What legalism is

1. Justification conditioned to self-righteousness - Galatians 2:16
1. Fellowship governed by self-righteousness - Galatians 2:14
1. Sanctification attempted by self-righteousness - Galatians 3:3

3 Appeals against legalism in Galatians 4

V1-11 - An appeal against legalism from our position in Christ.

V12-20 - A personal appeal from Paul's ministry in Galatia.

V21-31 - An appeal from pedagogy or instruction in the Old Testament.

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Seven Characteristics of a Compelling Christian Ministry

1- Humility

2- Close Relationships

3- Blessing

4- Truth

5- Genuine Methods

6- Genuine Intentions

7- A longsuffering desire
for Christian growth

Applications

1. How compelling is the example of my ministry?
1. How legalistic is my testimony?
1. How well can I discern and avoid legalism?
1. How evident is Christ in my life and ministry?