

God's Holiness – Legalism Kills, Holiness Thrills

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A Holy Life is:

A happy life, a life of freedom from all forms of guilt and shame, a life that gives peace, assurance of purpose, fulfillment without any loss of excitement and enjoyment in this life and then looking forward to an eternity beyond our imagination...





Dr. Michael Brown – titled “Go and Sin No More” he cites some of the Puritan preachers claims on holiness:

- George Swinnock says: “There is a beauty in holiness as well as a beauty of holiness”
- Joseph Caryl says: “Perfect holiness is the aim of the saints on earth, and it is the reward of the saints in heaven.”
- John Whitlock says: “the Christian’s way..... ..is holiness and his end happiness”.






Oswald Chamber the author of the devotional “My Utmost for His Highest” says this of holiness:

“God has one destined end for mankind – holiness! His aim is the production of saints. God is not an eternal blessing machine for men. He did not come to save men out of pity. He came to save men because He had created them to be Holy”





Isaiah 30:9-11 For these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction. ¹⁰ They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. ¹¹ Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"






The Living Bible translations says it this way:


Isaiah 30:9-11 (TLB) For they are stubborn rebels. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ They tell my prophets, “Shut up—we don’t want any more of your reports!” Or they say, “Don’t tell us the truth; tell us nice things; tell us lies. Forget all this gloom; we’ve heard more than enough about your ‘Holy One of Israel’ and all he says.”





2 Timothy 4:1-4 (TLB) And so I solemnly urge you before God and before Christ Jesus—who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom—² to preach the Word of God urgently at all times, whenever you get the chance, in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not. Correct and rebuke your people when they need it, encourage them to do right, and all the time be feeding them patiently with God's Word. ³ For there is going to come a time when people won't listen to the truth but will go around looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear. ⁴ They won't listen to what the Bible says but will blithely follow their own misguided ideas.





Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.





What is the source of Holiness?

The source of Holiness in a person comes as a **result** of a having true **relationship** with **Jesus** thru power of the **Holy Spirit** – It's all based on **Love**

- It's very simple – love doesn't want to hurt love – there's nothing I want to do intentionally to hurt my relationship with Jesus





What is the source of Legalism?

The source of legalism stems from a person having religion with no relationship with Jesus thru the Holy Spirit.

- Religious duties are emphasized more than the relationship that the Holy Spirit draws us into a Father's love
- Legalism never brings the joy of the Lord in a person's life, rather it brings the guilt and shame of being a failure in not being able to live up to God's standards






Dr. Michael Brown Says:

Unfortunately, many believers who flee from the clutches of legalism – especially when they never seemed to measure up to legalism's demands – fall right into the grasp of free-thinking libertarianism where now almost anything goes! They have cast off all restrictive rules and oppressive regulations, and in the name of liberty, they have opened the door to license.

While legalism is deadly, license is damnable – it could be said that legalism slays its thousands, libertarianism slays its tens of thousands.

Biblical commandments are brought down to the level of this Christian's own experience, and anything that brings any kind of spiritual pressure to bear on this previously discouraged believer is rejected as NOT being the easy yoke and light burden of Jesus.





Hebrews 10:26-31 (TLB) If anyone sins **deliberately** by rejecting the Savior after knowing the truth of forgiveness, this sin is not covered by Christ's death; there is no way to get rid of it. ²⁷ There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible punishment of God's awful anger, which will consume all his enemies. ²⁸ A man who refused to obey the laws given by Moses was killed without mercy if there were two or three witnesses to his sin. ²⁹ Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled underfoot the Son of God and treated his cleansing blood as though it were common and unhallowed, and insulted and outraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people. ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Justice belongs to me; I will repay them"; who also said, "The Lord himself will handle these cases." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.





Dr. Michael Brown says:

Is the fact that many preachers and teachers who glory in the grace of God often do so at the expense of the Bible's clear call to holy living, helping to push the legalistic-rejecting, libertarian Christian further and further away from:

- *Discipline – no one is going to tie me up again*
- *Conviction – you're not going to condemn me anymore*
- *And Biblical Standards – Who are you to tell me what to do?*





Legalism is man-centered where Holiness is God-centered.

- Legalism says - I will do this so that I can earn my relationship with God
- License says - I can do whatever I want because God loves me
- Holiness says - I will do this because my relationship with Jesus is based on love and my desire is for it to grow stronger in me





Oswald Chambers observed:

The only liberty a saint has is the liberty not to use his liberty.... Liberty means ability not to violate the law; license means personal insistence on doing what I like... To be free from the law means that I am the living law of God, there is no independence of God in my make-up. License is rebellion against all law. If my heart does not become the center of Divine Love, it may become the center of diabolical license.

