

“Legalism is a toxic preoccupation with the rules as a means of achieving forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through obedience to God.”

“Grace has a healthy respect for the Law as a means of understanding God’s gift of redemption in Christ as well as the intended posture for those who bear His image.”

## KINDS OF LEGALISM

Putting the Truth to Work:  
the Theory and Practice of Biblical Application  
by Dan Doriani



Pride in self-discipline

Love for the Law

Class #1

Class #2

Class #3

Class #4

Teaches that I must do “X” to be saved.

Teaches that I must do “X” to stay saved.

Create new laws because of love for law.

Makes obedience to the Law the end game.

### Galatians 4

“<sup>12</sup> I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong; <sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup> Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth? <sup>17</sup> They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out, in order that you may seek them. <sup>18</sup> But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you. <sup>19</sup> My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you - <sup>20</sup> but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.”

“<sup>12</sup> I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are.

Under Law

Under Grace

Isolating  
Disconnect with much of the Body of Christ

Connecting



## The Incarnation

“You have done me no wrong; <sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.”

Under Law  
Isolating

Under Grace  
Connecting

Intolerant  
of superficial differences

Generous



## The Resurrection

### 2 Corinthians 12

“<sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up to the third heaven. <sup>3</sup> And I know how such a man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows - <sup>4</sup> was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a man will I boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> For if I do wish to boast I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me.”

### 2 Corinthians 12

“7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me - to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

“15 Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?”

#### Under Law

Isolating  
Intolerant

#### Under Grace

Connecting  
Generous

Indifferent Self-sacrificing

## The Crucifixion



“17 They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out, in order that you may seek them. 18 But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.”

#### Under Law

Isolating  
Intolerant  
Indifferent

#### Under Grace

Connecting  
Generous  
Self-sacrificing

Manipulating

Loving

## The Holy Spirit



“19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you - 20 but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.”

#### Under the Law

Isolating  
Intolerant  
Indifferent  
Manipulating

#### Under Grace

Connecting  
Gracious  
Self-sacrificing  
Loving

Codependent Commitment to see Christ in others



### General dynamics of Life under Law:

1. **Bibliolatry** - Like the Holy Spirit the Bible points us to Jesus.
2. **Backslidden** - “Falling away” has more to do with grace and faith than the Law.
3. **Focus on human performance** - The Law sets our mind on the flesh which is death not life and peace.
4. **Superficiality** - The Great Commission is about growing up to spiritual adulthood.

### Social dynamics of Life under Law:

1. **Isolated** - Cold heartedness.
2. **Intolerant** - Majoring on minors.
3. **Indifferent** - Everything is black or white.
4. **Manipulating** - The Great Commission is about growing up to spiritual adulthood.
5. **Codependent** - Focus on something other than Christ.