

So You Think You're Not Legalistic?

So, you've come out of the religious system and you've been detoxifying yourself for some time to remove every skerrick of religion and legalism (i.e. adherence to the Law) and you think you're successful. But have you really got rid of legalism? Or, is it just hiding away underneath somewhere?

If you operate legally in any other area of your life, you are a 'sitting duck' for the religious spirit to draw you into legalism concerning in the things of belief. This is because anyone who has been legalistic has a weakness that the enemy can exploit. You must guard against all forms of legalism, in the same way that you have guarded against all forms of religion. So, take inventory of your status.

To check to see if you have any legalism in your being, or if you are in any way prone to being legalistic, see how you go answering these questions:

1. When you buy something at a shop and the till says that it's a certain price, but the ticketed price is less than that, do you demand that the business charge you the ticketed price according to the consumer laws? Do you speak forcefully to the shop assistant and say, "It's the law"? THAT'S LEGALISM.
2. When you are talking to people about spiritual matters (or biblical matters) do you get heated when they disagree with you and you have to get your point across because you're right and they're wrong? THAT'S LEGALISM.
3. When someone accuses you of doing something wrong, do you raise legal reasons why you are right in what you did? THAT'S LEGALISM.
4. When someone accuses you of being in error or doing something wrong, does your mind toss it around looking for legalities of why you shouldn't be accused of doing wrong? THAT'S LEGALISM.
5. When you are driving your car and motorists break the road rules, either flagrantly or accidentally, does your mind immediately go into an accusatory mode and say, "They broke the law" or "The law doesn't permit that", and you get hard in your attitude towards them? THAT'S LEGALISM.
6. When you are in a situation or circumstance, does your mind toss around legal ways of getting out of a predicament or to get your own way? THAT'S LEGALISM.
7. When doing something that follows local social protocols, do you only go to the limit of the code and no further? Do you think less of someone who goes beyond the limits by being more gracious? THAT'S LEGALISM.
8. When there's a schedule of regular social events in place and someone defaults or changes one of them, does it annoy you, even though you aren't really put out in any way? THAT'S LEGALISM.

If you answered, "Yes" to any of those questions, you have an issue with legalism And a propensity to be religiously legalistic. You are 'fair game' for the religious spirit to drag you back into legalism at the 'drop of a hat'. You need to be constantly on your guard against it.

So, it's not about whether you're legalistic regarding the Torah or to scripture. Legalism has its foundation in the heart, in an attitude of legalism.

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