

## On January 8, 2012

We opened with a marker board and a question...

What are some examples from the last century where Ministers & Pastors have used *shame* and *rules* to govern the behavior of the “sheep”? (Esp. since WWII) The examples we gave were... Attendance, Dress Codes, Bible Reading & Prayer...etc.

**Q: Which of these are good and Biblical?** As we look and reflect we find that MOST (though not all) of the “to do” lists which have developed over the years have had a basis in scripture.

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Then we revisited our “Year in Review” discussion from Thursday 12-22-11. The #1 response by a landslide was people felt “free”. The runner up was “rescued”. We all agreed that this was a good and godly thing.

As is the case so many times, where ever there is an “up” there is almost always a “down”.

Not only Mark, but also Jim & Rob had shared a similar concerned with a developing slackness\* in our church family [See **\*\*Going Deeper**]. From all of this, collectively, came these teachings.

### Back to the marker board:

**Q:** Are things like “attendance” or “Bible Reading” or “Prayer” in a Christians daily life unreasonable or unscriptural things?

**A:** The general answer was no.

**Q:** What was wrong then?

**A:** It was being used as a “litmus test” or a “standard” of correct behavior to determine “if” you were well pleasing to Christ. It was a measuring stick for your “right-ness” (righteousness) with God.

So we began looking at a New Testament church (**Galatia**) who began to think the same way. They had teachers who came in teaching that reliance upon Jesus alone could not save you. You HAD to do the works of the law in order to be “right” with God. Paul’s letter to them warns them of this evil doctrine, which was and IS hostile to Christ and the grace that comes through Him (2Tim 1:9; Jn. 1:17).

At this point we simply began reading around Gal. 2:11 and read through to Gal. 5:13.

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**Review & Reflect:** (This is NOT intended to be an assignment. Do some, all or none of these. This is for “Stirring” purpose only)

- The Law is Good –
  - Law is no longer a chain about our neck
  - Set free from the “CURSE of” – not the law itself. – **Q. What is the curse? (See Gal. 3:10).**
- No one is Justified by the works of the Law.
  - Works do not bring or produce righteousness **or Christ died for nothing** – Gal. 2:21.
  - Die to rules and live to God

- Under the Law:
  - Under (*G5259 Hupo*) In this instance and almost throughout all of Galatians, “Under” has the meaning of **being under** or **beneath** the authority and power of . (Gal. 3:10,22-25; 4:2-5,21; 5:18)
  - Submit – (*G5293 Hupotasso*) - It is a willing personal subjection to another.
- Blessing of Abraham vs. “Blessings of Deut. 28”
  - **Q. What is the difference?**
  - **Q. What is the TRUE blessing of Abraham God was referring to?**
  - The “Blessing” to Abraham was God’s promise to him and to the **WHOLE WORLD** through him.  
**Q. So, when did the law come in reference to Abraham’s blessing?** A) Before B)During C) After
- **Q. Christ in me = does what is right, looks like the \_\_\_\_.**
- Acts are IMPORTANT!
  - Acts (works) are Fruit or proof of being reconciled – NOT the means of reconciliation.
  - Do not bring salvation but are proof of it – Js. 2:18
  - In Revelation 19:8, we are given another “visual” for Righteous acts vs. Righteous people. Saints are righteous by nature, which is WHY they do righteous ACTS.
- What three things does Paul STRESS (esp. in Gal. 3) were brought to us by the “hearing of Faith” vs. the “works of the law”.
  1. **S** \_\_\_\_\_
  2. **J** \_\_\_\_\_ (length depends on tense you use i.e. “-ation” or “-ify”)
  3. **R** \_\_\_\_\_
- “Hearing of” vs. doing of (Gal. 3:2,5)
  - **Q. What is the difference?**
  - **Q. Why “hearing of”?**
- **Q. Why does Gal. 3:21 say that if “life” could have come through the law, then so would righteousness?**
  - **Q. Was Righteousness or Life – the real point?**
  - **Q. Why? (Clue – Jn. 17:1-3)**
- Think about and discuss this sentence, “Just rules and ‘right’ behavior can only produce another group of Pharisees”.
- Slaves vs. sons – Gal. 4:1-11; 21-31 (see also Jn. 8:30-47)
  - **Q: How many sins does it take to become a slave?**
  - **Q. What does this mean, “We are heirs ACCORDING TO the promise” – Gal. 3:29**
- Throughout all of these verses – **Q. Who is doing the work of righteousness & Justification?**

Yes, I'm going there...

- What would most “faith” people (churches) say to a minister who came to them like Paul did to the Galatians – as described in Gal. 4:13-15.
  - **Q. What does that tell us about our past understanding of true faith?**
  - **Q. Does this mean that it is God’s will for someone to be sick?**
  - **Q. Does it mean, that a person can be sick and in faith at the same time?**
  - **Q. What superficial judgments can we make concerning a person who has outward and obvious manifestations of sickness or disease?**
  - **Q. If they themselves are not currently walking in 100% health, does that not disqualify them from teaching healing?**
  - **Q. Does it disqualify them from laying hands on the sick FOR healing?**
  - **Q. A Key to these verses is found in verse 14 in the word “trial”. What does this word mean and how does it effect the answers above?**
    - Compare the word Trial in gal. 4:14 to the same word in Js. 1:2.
      - **Q. What does this tell you?**
  - We ended with - Now that you are free - Don't use freedom as excuse for sin - Gal. 5:13

It was THE answer the Holy Spirit gave to Paul for selfishness in our new found freedom in Christ.  
It is also the answer for us!

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FOOTNOTES:

\* **Examples:**

- People becoming more and more late to church.
  - Not considering others and how your tardiness or failure to let someone know you were not coming might effect others who were depending on you.
  - Talking too much while others are sharing praises or worse – while they are requesting your prayers.
  - Very little response during “open” times (Like Rob’s teachings on Wednesday nights) unless the topic was funny or crude, but spiritual topics were almost entirely without response.
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### *Going Deeper*

\*\*Mark shared how he had been struggling since early November with some the lethargic responses he had been seeing in our church family. Nothing worthy of the “sin” label necessarily, just an approach to life, faith & church with a slack hand. As he had these thoughts he wondered – “Have I pressed the fact of our freedom in Christ too much?”

Then he began to think that it was probably due to questions like these that the “preachers” of a century ago began to create “Bible based to-do lists” in order to guide the people from selfishness in their freedoms into dedication WITH their freedoms. These lists however, were **not** the answer because they have resulted in so much bondage, shame, “mask wearing” (false fronts) and glib, patterned answers. It has become another form of Law to be “UNDER”. The intensions were probably good, but clearly the end results reveal how the methods were misguided.

How then do you rejoice in and enjoy your freedoms in Christ, without becoming lethargic, selfish and slack?

This is where this series of teachings came from...

\*\*Transgression means a willful violation of a KNOWN law. (for more on this see Rom. 5:13,14)

- This was the significance between Jews and Gentiles.
  - Gentiles could commit general sins or “wrongs”
  - Jews committed transgressions due to their KNOWLEDGE of the law.