



# JESUS

Legalist or Liberal?

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## Legalist or Liberal?

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### Defining Terms:

**Legalist** - a term we use when someone is trying to impose something we don't agree with.

**Liberal** - a term we use when someone disagrees with what we're trying to impose on them.





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### Defining Terms:

**Legalism** - advocates for a strict adherence to a particular set of rules or laws. (Josh. 1.7-8)

**Ritualism** - advocates for a strict adherence to the letter of the law without consideration of intent. (Mt. 15.8)

**Merit-ism** - advocates for a strict adherence to a set of Laws as a means of earning favor. (Ro. 9.30-10.4)

**Liberalism** - advocates for the loosening of a particular set of laws. (Deut. 4.1-6)



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## Legalist or Liberal?

### Some “Legalistic” Things Jesus Taught:

“I have...come... to fulfill them” **Mt. 5.17-18**

“Unless your righteousness exceeds ...” **Mt. 5.20**

“The one who does the will of my Father ...” **Mt. 7.21**

“Neglected the weightier matters of the Law” **Mt. 23.23**

“If you love me you will keep my command...” **Jn. 14.15**

Jesus was a **legalist** when it came to God’s Law.





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### Some “Liberal” Things Jesus Taught:

“to eat with unwashed hands does not defile...” **Mt. 15.20**

“The Sabbath was made for man” **Mk. 2.27**

“Can the wedding guests mourn as long as...” **Mt. 9.15**

Jesus was a **liberal** when it came to man’s traditions.



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What's the Point?

Jesus had a **standard** that He followed  
and that **standard** was nothing more  
or **less** than the **Word of God!**





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### What About Grace?

Law keeping (**legalism**) is not contrary to grace:

- Our efforts to keep the Law demonstrate our need for grace. (**Gal. 3.19**)
- Obedience to God's Law is the proper response to God's grace. (**Eph. 2.8-10**)
- Grace empowers us to better keep God's Law. (**Titus 2.11-14**)