

Introduction: Read (and you can highlight them too) Proverbs 14:15, 15:28, 19:25,
2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1, 1 Timothy 4:8, 2 Cor. 5:9, Phil. 1:9-11

In a dictionary, look up the definition of "holy":

Read Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15-16, 1 Cor. 1:2, Titus 2:11-12

In a dictionary, look up the definition of "pure":

Read James 3:17a, 1 Timothy 5:22b, 1 Peter 4:1-7, James 1:27c, 2 Peter 3:14, 17

Define Legalism:

Read: Philippians 3:3, Matthew 23:15, 23, Hebrews 9:14, Matthew 5:17
James 1:20, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
Galatians 2:20-21, 3:1-10, chapter 5, and 6:12
Romans 15:1-2, Proverbs 19:11, 17:9, Ephesians 6:4
1 Timothy 4:6-16, James 5:19-20
2 Corinthians 11:15, Galatians 5:1

Define License:

Read: Proverbs 25:26 (compromise)
Romans 13:11-14
Romans 6:1-2, 12-15
James 1:13-16, 2 Peter 2:19

the Book of Jude (which describes unsaved people within the church influencing the believers away from the Biblical meaning of grace); note especially verses 4, 16, (19).

Define Liberty (What does it mean to be "free in Christ?"):

no more rules (no list of "do's and don'ts") no limits to methods of witnessing (as long as the motivation is good, it's OK)
 free to serve unselfishly out of love free from sin's punishment, free from its' power/grip in my life strengthened through Christ, and in eternity, free from sin's presence.

Read: Romans 6:18-22

1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23, 9:22, 1 Peter 4:1-4
James 1:25
Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16
Romans 8:1-4
Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 10:11-13, 1 Peter 1:3-4

Summary - Reason(s) for Holy Living:

Read: 2 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 2:8-9
John 14:23, 1 John 4:19

Freedom In Christ: Legalism, License, and Liberty
Student Handout (2 pages)

"The major glitch [on the teaching of God's grace] came when **we transposed grace into power, not power to live a holy life, but power to walk in the miraculous and what we viewed as the supernatural.**"

Kevin Reeves in The Other Side of the River, 2007. (A testimony of a family who left the River revival movement/Third Wave/Latter Rain/Vineyard: "When mystical experiences and strange doctrines overtake his church, one man risks all to find the truth...a true story.")

Holy means: _____.

More is said about _____ than about _____.

Christians are called to be _____.

Pure means: _____.

What is Legalism?

Living with a list of do's and don'ts is _____.

Having "high Biblical Christian standards" is _____.

Not allowing the world's ways to squeeze us into its' mould is _____.

Preaching and teaching "rights and wrongs" is _____.

Following rules to earn salvation/eternal life is _____.

Following rules to earn God's favour (grace) as a Christian is _____.

Thinking that if you make choices to follow Biblical standards of holy living and purity, then you are a superior Christian is _____. (1 Cor.10:12, Romans 12:10, Matt. 6:1, 5:16)

If you make choices to follow Biblical standards of holy living and purity, then _____

_____ and _____

_____ (1 John 1:6, Titus 2:5c, 1 Timothy 4:16, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 3:1b-2).

What is License?

License is _____.

License wants _____ which in reality can be a

_____.

License does not have Christ as _____ and _____ in the believer's life.

License believes that the only _____ non-Christians need to see in our lives is

the _____ and that we _____ and

and are _____ to do whatever we want to do. License tries to _____ in with the world.

(Compromise is blending with and uniting in spite of opposing ideas.)

Liberty: What does it mean to be "free in Christ"?

- no more rules or limits to what I can participate in?
- no limits to methods of witnessing ("as long as the motivation is good, it's OK")?
- free to serve unselfishly out of love?
- free from sin's punishment, free from its' power/grip in my life strengthened through Christ, and in eternity, free from sin's presence?
- I'm forgiven and under grace so I can even sin because I'm free (1 Peter 2:16)?

We are free to _____

A Servant of Sin	Vs. A Servant of Righteousness ("doing what is right")
<p>- slave, no freedom to do "good" according to God's standard (see Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:12, 20-22, 10:1-5)*</p> <p>- under sin's bondage... can't help but keep sinning since powerless on their own</p> <p>- the master is the god of this world who blinds (pleasures of sin are for a season)</p>	<p>- bondservant (not a master) (not to live "free" as if without a master)</p> <p>- has chosen to surrender their life to serving their Master, to do what He tells them to do*</p> <p>- free from sin's master to serve the living and true God who rescues us (1 Thes.1:9, 10)</p> <p>- freedom to do "good" and please God (Hebrews 13:16)</p> <p>- our Lord gives us all the power needed to live a holy life (2 Peter 1:3-4, 1 Cor.10:13, Heb. 4:16)</p> <p>- when we walk our Lord who is the Light, we can confess sin and be forgiven/cleansed. (1 John 1:5-9)</p> <p>- and if we walk with Him, we have fellowship</p> <p>- The Bible teaches that God's servants are to obey with sincerity, respect, fear, love, and be separate (holy) from worldly passions. (Eph.5-8, 2 Timothy 2:21-22, 1 John 2:15-17, Matthew 6:37)</p>
<p><i>*Even if a non-believer does something that we say is "good" (for example, feed the poor, be kind), in God's perspective it is only _____ and does not count as "good".</i></p>	<p><i>* Many Christians struggle with "finding God's will" for their life, by which they often mean their calling ("vocation and location"). God has shown us through His Word so much of what His will is (just look up the word "will" in a concordance and anything that relates to it) that if we start with obeying Him in those things, the rest will be given as we allow Him to order our footsteps. One person put it like this: "It's not what I don't know that I need to worry about but rather what I do know."</i></p>

Holiness Unto The Lord (hymn: Lelia N. Morris)

"Called unto holiness," Church of God,
 Purchase of Jesus, redeemed by His blood;
 Called from the world and its idols to flee,
 Called from the bondage of sin to be free.
 "Called unto holiness," praise His dear name!
 This blessed [mystery] to faith now made plain.
 Not our own righteousness, but Christ within,
 Living, and reigning, and saving from sin.

"Called unto holiness," Bride of the Lamb,
 Waiting the Bridegroom's returning again;
 Lift up your heads for the day draweth near,
 When in His beauty the King shall appear.
 "Holiness unto the Lord," is our watchword and song,
 "Holiness unto the Lord," as we're marching along;
 Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
 "Holiness unto the Lord," now and forever.

Questions to ask yourself: Legalist: Why do I frustrate the grace of God? What am I trying to earn?
 License: Is Christ my first love? Is He worth forsaking worldly passions?

Freedom In Christ: Legalism, License, and Liberty

Answers to Student Handout

"The major glitch [on the teaching of God's grace] came when we transposed grace into power, not power to live a holy life, but power to walk in the miraculous and what we viewed as the supernatural." Kevin Reeves in The Other Side of the River, published by Lighthouse Trails Publishing, Oregon, 2007. (A testimony of a family who left the River revival movement/Third Wave/Latter Rain/Vineyard: "When mystical experiences and strange doctrines overtake his church, one man risks all to find the truth...a true story.")

Holy means: set apart, separated from, saint, a characteristic of God.

More is said about holiness in the Bible than about many of today's popular Christian topics.

Christians are called to be holy.

Pure means: unspotted, without stain or blemishes, all one type of metal.

What is Legalism? (see verses on previous page)

Living with a list of do's and don'ts is NOT necessarily legalism.

Having "high Biblical Christian standards" is NOT necessarily legalism.

Not allowing the world's ways to squeeze us into its' mould is NOT legalism.

Preaching and teaching "rights and wrongs" is NOT necessarily legalism.

Following rules to earn salvation/eternal life is legalism.

Following rules to earn God's favour (grace) as a Christian is legalism (because grace=undeserved favour).

Thinking that if you make choices to follow Biblical standards of holy living and purity, then you are a superior Christian is dangerous and wrong and full of pride. (1 Cor.10:12, Romans 12:10, Matt. 6:1, 5:16)

If you make choices to follow Biblical standards of holy living and purity, then you'll have a closer fellowship with God (walking in the light, walking in the Spirit) and be a clearer witness to the world. (1 John 1:6, Titus 2:5c, 1 Timothy 4:16, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 3:1b-2).

What is License? (see verses on previous page)

License is living as we please (with no limits or rules to follow).

License wants no "dos and don'ts" list which in reality can be a list of "wills and won'ts".

License does not have Christ as Lord and reigning in the believer's life.

License believes that the only difference non-Christians need to see in our lives is the "fruit of the Spirit" qualities (e.g "peace" and "joy" in trials), that we "love" and "accept" everyone and are free to do whatever we want to do. License tries to blend in with the world.

(Compromise is blending with and uniting in spite of opposing ideas.)

Liberty: What does it mean to be "free in Christ"?

no more rules or limits to what I can participate in? No, liberty/freedom is not the same as an absence of obedience.

no limits to methods of witnessing ("as long as the motivation is good, it's OK")? No. (This is a topic mentioned later in this study.)

■ free to serve unselfishly out of love? Yes!

■ free from sin's punishment, free from its' power/grip in my life strengthened through Christ, and in eternity, free from sin's presence? Yes!

I'm forgiven and under grace so I can even sin because I'm free? (1 Peter 2:16) No. Liberty is not to be a cover-up.

We are free to serve in love and free to do what we should do to please God!

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Also thank you to other various authors who have written about this topic.

Lelia N. Morris, 1900, wrote the lyrics to the hymn "Holiness Unto the Lord" which is under public domain and quoted on the previous page.

- J. D.