

# Legalism

"Legalism is doing what God says is good (or not doing what God says is bad) in a way that God says is bad."

Legalism is when we follow God's commands, but we do it for the wrong reasons or in the wrong way. Following God's commands just to impress people is an awful reason to obey God's laws; so is following God just so that we don't get into trouble. We also need to make sure that, when we seek to obey God, we don't forget what's most important. If you obey God, but you do it without love, you've done it wrong. It's not that legalism is simply insisting that God's commands are important (They absolutely are!), legalism is doing what God says is good (or not doing what God says is bad) in a way that God says is bad. Instead of falling into legalism, let's do our best to follow God's commands by loving Him and loving others.



## Family Time Questions

- What is legalism?
- Is following God's commands the same as legalism?
- Why should we follow God's commands?
- How should we follow God's commands?

## Bible Verses

- Matthew 23:23-24 - Justice, mercy, and faithfulness
- Micah 6:8 - Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly
- Matthew 12:11-12 - What's more important?
- Matthew 22:36-40 - The greatest commandments

## Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your commands. Please help us to follow you for the right reasons and in the right ways. In Jesus' name, Amen."