

False Christianity

Colossians 2:16-23

Introduction: False Teaching - Colossians 2:8-23

The Legalist - Colossians 2:16-17 - Romans 10:4; Galatians 5:1

Responding to Legalist: Be patient and don't overreact to their judgmental attitude.

Resist being defensive, a legalist needs to meet a gracious person.

The Mystics - Colossians 2:18-19

Responding to Mystics: The mystical union that we have in Christ is accessible by the work of the Holy Spirit and the transforming truth of God's Word. (John 15:4-5)

The Holy Spirit is the source of union with Christ and every believer has equal access to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

The Ascetics - Colossians 2:20-23; Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

Responding to Ascetics: (1 Corinthians 9:27; Galatians 5:23; Titus 1:8; 2:2, 4, 6) Asceticism is beating up the body; self-control is the work of the Spirit

God certainly intends for us to 'discipline ourselves', but as part of accountability in the local Church.

Conclusion: These warnings provide corresponding caution; legalist are judgmental; mystics categorize people by experience; and ascetics love personal discipline. All life change begins with Jesus Christ, he is sufficient, he is all in all.

Jesus faced legalism (Matthew 23; 6:1-8, 16-18; 1 Samuel 16:7) yet the New Testament is not void of rules. (Romans 3:23; 10:31-32; 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Titus 1:14-15; Romans 14-15; 1 Corinthians 8-10)

Legalists would have us live by their rules rather than God's precepts; mystics would have us elevate experience over God's revealed truth; and ascetics would call us to living standards that could never defeat the flesh. (Colossians 3:5, 12) All transformation begins with the place that Christ has in my life.

The will in a nonbeliever is void of Christ and the will in a believer is with Christ, submitting to and surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Follow Jesus Christ, obey his Word and expect that God will change your life.