

Doctrine of Characteristics of a Legalist

1. The Legalist considers himself to be a moral person. Morality is equated with godliness, though the two are not the same.
2. The Legalist loves rules and regulations of his own creation. God had given to Israel the Bible. The legalist gave to the oral traditions and detailed explanations which went far beyond the letter of the Law.
3. Once the rules of his own creation are made, the Legalist will appeal to them rather than the Bible.
4. The Legalist loves to hold others to a higher level of accountability than he is willing to submit to. Rules are for others, not for self.
5. The Legalist has a heart of stone. They do not show mercy or compassion easily.
6. The Legalist has an explosive personality. There is much anger and hostility in the heart. Every moment is a flashpoint of anger.
7. The Legalist feels secure with established boundaries and is afraid of change even when it is the known will of God. When the Lord wanted to include the Gentiles into the fellowship of the church, the Legalist wanted to exclude them.
8. The Legalist must always be right.
9. The Legalist sees no sin in himself but much sin in others. The Legalist is proud of his moral superiority and spiritual perfection.
10. The Legalist has no need to confess sin. He has no reason to shed tears. He has no reason to kneel in humility. He has no reason for God to be merciful to him a sinner.