

“Navigating Through The Scylla of Legalism and Charybdis of License”

Text: Colossians 2:16-23 (page 984 in pew Bible)

I. The “Scylla” of an un-biblical and un-Christian standard of superior spirituality (*adding* unbiblical rules and restraints)

A. The false standard of Legalism

Vs. 16 “Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.”

- To be a true Christian or to be advanced as a Christian, you need Jesus AND... follow these rules. (Insisting on more than Christ alone). *FALSE!*

B. The false standard of Asceticism

Vs. 18 “Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism”

Vs 21-23 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom...”

- To be a true Christian or to be advanced as a Christian you need Jesus AND... Deny yourself these things. (Insisting on more than Christ alone) *FALSE!*

“But didn’t Jesus teach that in order to be one of His disciples we must deny ourselves?”

>>>There is a difference between ascetic denial and Biblical self-discipline.

C. The false standard of Mysticism

Vs. 18 “Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind...”

- To be a true Christian, or to be advanced as a Christian you need Jesus AND... an additional spiritual experience. *FALSE!*

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him.” I Peter 1:8

II. The “Charybdis” of an unbiblical and un-Christian sub-standard spirituality (*taking away* Biblical rules and restraints).

A. Faith in Christ does not lead to breaking the law.

Jude 4 “Ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness...”
John 14:15 “If you love me, keep my commands.”

B. Faith in Christ does lead to charity and holiness where there is not a law.

I Corinthians 6:12 “Everything is permissible for me – but not everything is beneficial.”
Will this benefit me or others physically? Spiritually? Emotionally? Mentally?

I Corinthians 6:12 “Everything is permissible for me – but I will not be mastered by anything” . **Do I control it – or does it control me?**

I Corinthians 8:9 and 13 “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. If what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.”
Does my activity positively harm others?

I Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” **Does this activity bring honor to God?**

Where we own differing convictions as Christians:

1. Don’t judge those whose convictions differ from our own.
Romans 14:23 “Everything that does not come from faith is sin.”
2. Let your own convictions framed by the Lord and His Word.
3. Be consistent with your own convictions.
“Holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”