

Love or Legalism?

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When we insist men must adhere strictly to the commandments of God, is it love or legalism?

Men say it is legalism. They say, "We should obey a Savior, not a system." Or, "Give me the man, not a plan." Their idea is that to admit the existence of a law by which man must live in order to be right with God, is legalism.

God, however, calls this love. The Spirit said, **"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome"** (1 John 5:3). Jesus said, **"If you love Me, keep My commandments"** (John 14:15). Keeping the commandments of God is an expression of love, not legalism. To insist others do the same is love for God and man, not legalism in a system or plan.



The Holy Spirit was sent to reveal all truth (John 16:13). Why would anyone think the truth was revealed so men could be cavalier toward it? It was revealed so men could obey it and be set free (John 8:32). Paul wrote, **"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered"** (Romans 6:17). This does not destroy a relationship with the Savior, for it is His system--the gospel (Hebrews 5:9).