

not a fan.
COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.

more than rules

[2] The difference between legalism and holiness is where your heart is. The difference between a legalistic Christian and a love-filled Christian is where the heart is. The difference between a fan and a follower is where the heart is.

This idea is important for two reasons. [3]

- 1) It effects your, individual relationship with God.
- 2) It effects other people's relationship with God, as well as their understanding of who He is and what He wants from them.

What do I mean by this? Glad you asked! Following Jesus is more than rules. It's not religion, it's relationship, as the cliché goes. Let's talk about the rules and come back to these two points.

the law

Israel was and is God's chosen people. [4] [Exodus 19:5-6](#). Chosen to do and be what?

- To possess the land promised to their ancestors.
- To represent God's love, light, power, and authority in the world.
- To be the thing through which God would draw people to Himself.
- To be the thing through which he would send the messiah.

The law, civil and ceremonial, would set them apart from the rest of the nations of the world.

- Not a copy and paste by Moses from the Egyptian system in either way.
- Different set of morals, different set of values from the nations around them.
- The law was not given to save them, to provide a means for them to achieve their own righteousness before God. Rather, it was to show them their need for the Lord, to drive them to Him.

What is the point of the law today? What relevance does it have to us? [5] [Galatians 3:26 - 4:7](#). It's purpose, before Jesus in our lives and after, is to direct us back to God when we stray.

We are free from the law, not because it is invalid or irrelevant, but because its requirements were met through Jesus. [6]

Matthew 5:17-18
Romans 3:21-31
Romans 7:1-6 Actually all of Romans 2-7
Galatians 2:19-21

The law still gives us a look into the heart and mind of God, a description of God's best for us.

- The letter of the law vs the Spirit of the law.
- Accused of picking and choosing parts to obey/enforce while ignoring more odd or obscure parts. They do the same with things like murder and stealing.
- Shouldn't do these things not because the God's law says so, but because it would make God sad. It would damage relationship.

That is what I say that the difference between legalism and holiness, the difference between a fan and a follower, is where your heart is.

How does this effect your relationship with God?

- Legalism makes your connection to God all about the thing you do and don't do, which is a bunch of do do.
- Legalism makes you say, "God is happy with me because I do this and I don't do that. God is unhappy with you because you do that and don't do this."
- Many times legalism burns out and says Jesus is a sham because it didn't work for them. It didn't work because you were doing a different "it."
- Church of Ephesus in [Revelation 2](#).

How does this effect other people's relationship with God and their understanding of Him?

- Perhaps best put by Ghandi. [7] "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."
- Kyle's story about the pregnant girl.
- How many of you have been put off or even really burned by other legalistic Christians? How did it effect your faith at the time?

the rules don't inspire grace

Look at Jesus' whole ministry. A large part of it was about undoing the legalism that other groups had created around God's law.

- The rules are about keeping people out, not getting people in.
- But God's rules say "You can't do it on your own, only I can get you in. Come to Me."
- A marriage based on law and not grace.

[8] what does God want from us then?

Greatest commandment. [Matthew 22:35-40](#)
Worship Him in Spirit and truth. [John 4:23-24](#)

Love one another. [John 13:34-35](#)

Obey out of love, not fear. [1 John 2:1-6](#)

[9] The difference between legalism and holiness is where your heart is. The difference between a legalistic Christian and a love-filled Christian is where the heart is. The difference between a fan and a follower is where the heart is.

Where is your heart? Is it stuck in law, or free in love? Is it ruled by grief, or growing in grace? Does it stagnate in the chest of a fan, or does it beat inside a fully, committed follower?