

## The Believer's Liberty in Christ



Legalism is attempting to live under the moral dictates of the Law (Rom. 3:19; Gal. 4:21), as a means to salvation. Instead of living under grace, as the only means to one's justification (legal standing) before God (Rom. 6:14-15), a legalist abandons the doctrinal teaching of grace (Gal. 5:4, 7) and the message of free grace ("justified freely by his grace" - Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9). Instead of a **grace/loving (want to)** relationship with the wedded Christ (Rom. 7:1-7), legalism creates a rigid **legal/works (must do)** relationship with the Law of Moses ("works of the law" – Gal. 2:16; 3:2, 5, 10), which results in a person trying to perform works in order to please God and merit his final salvation and justification before God (Acts 15:1; Ex. 19:8). Legalism *violates* grace (Gal. 2:21), *leavens* grace (Gal. 5:9), and *cancel*s out grace (Rom. 11:6).

The legal/law/works relationship **condemns** us for breaking God's perfect Law (James 2:10; Rom. 3:19), gives us **no power** to follow God's Law (Rom. 7:7-25; 8:3-4), and **cannot justify** us before God (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16); therefore, it can never **give us the assurance** that we are right before God (Rom. 3:20 – "for by the law is the knowledge of sin"). "Better news the Gospel brings; It bids me fly and gives me wings!"



Eagles wings! (Ex. 19:4)



Gospel/grace believers are "**dead**" (Rom. 7:4; Gal. 2:19) to the legal/law relationship and "**delivered**" (Rom. 7:6) from its exacting, condemning, and fearful rule. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law" (Gal. 3:13). We should enjoy the newfound freedom that we have in Christ and "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1). Legalism "gendereth to bondage" (Gal. 4:24; 2:4) whereas grace generates freedom (Rom. 6:14; Tit. 2:11-12; Rom. 5:2; 8:15; 2 Cor. 3:17 – "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty").

We have been liberated from the **problem of works justifying us** (Gal. 3:10-11; 5:3; Jas. 2:10), the **fear of God rejecting us** (Romans 8:33-34, 38-39; Eph. 1:6), the **sentence of Law condemning us** (Gal. 3:10; 2 Cor. 3:6; Rom. 4:15; 7:9-10), the **wrath of God judging us** (John 3:18, 36; Rom. 8:1), a **lack of assurance haunting us** (Ez. 18:4, 20; Rom. 3:19-20; 1 Jn. 3:4), the **regulations that are limiting us** (1 Tim. 4:1-5; 6:17; Col. 2:16), and the **sin that keeps enslaving us** (Rom. 6:6,17-18; 1 Cor. 7:22; Luke 4:18). We are "children... of the free" (Gal. 4:31). We are "free indeed" (John 8:36).

"I'm free from the fear of tomorrow  
I'm free from the guilt of my past,  
For I've traded all my shackles,  
For a glorious song,  
I'm free, praise the Lord, free at last!"



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