

“Resetting Your Moral Compass Part 1– Lost”

Galatians 5:1, 13; Romans 6:1-4

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**In order to keep from getting lost,
we must avoid two extremes.**

Extreme 1: Legalism

A. Definition of legalism:

1. Anything we do or don't do in order to earn favor with God. Legalism focuses on rewards to be gained or penalties to be avoided.
2. Conformity to how others think we should live instead of how the Bible tells us to live.

B. Three forms of legalism:

1. Fences– We build fences to keep ourselves from committing certain sins. Soon the fences, instead of the sins, become the issue. We elevate our rules to the level of God's commandments.
2. Making what is “gray” in the Scriptures “black and white” and then insisting others interpret “gray matters” as we do.
3. Spiritual disciplines– When spiritual disciplines become the goal rather than the means to the end. Spiritual disciplines are provided for our good, not our bondage.

C. The result of legalism is a Christian life characterized by guilt, bondage, and pride.

D. Solution- Stand firm in our freedom in Christ. (Galatians 5:1)

Extreme 2: License

A. License is to abuse our freedom in Christ.

B. Three forms of license:

1. Removal of fences– Having little or no boundaries to assist you in living a godly life.
2. When what is “black and white” in Scripture becomes “gray.”
3. Neglect of spiritual disciplines.

C. The result of a license-based Christianity is a life seduced by sin and the world.

D. Solution– Don’t use our freedom in Christ to indulge the sinful nature but rather die to ourselves in order to experience new life. (Galatians 5:13, Romans 6:1-3)

For Further Reading:

Worldliness by C.J. Mahaney, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, ©2008.

Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God’s Unfailing Love by Jerry Bridges, Navpress, Colorado Springs, Colorado, ©1991.

Grace Based Parenting by Dr. Tim Kimmel, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, Tennessee, ©2004.