



## Let No One Judge You? (Colossians 2:16-23)

### Legalism vs. Christ

“So **let no one judge you** in food or in drink, or regarding a **festival** or a **new moon** or **sabbaths**, which are a **shadow** of things to come, **but the substance is of Christ**. **Let no one cheat you** of your reward, taking delight in **false humility** and **worship of angels**, intruding into those things **which he has not seen, vainly puffed up** by his fleshly mind, and **not holding fast to the Head**, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ **from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,”** which all concern things which **perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?** These things indeed **have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”**

Colossians 2:16-23 NKJV

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- ☑ “So **let no one judge you** in food or in drink, or regarding a ***festival*** or a ***new moon*** or ***sabbaths***, which are a ***shadow*** of things to come, **but the substance is of Christ.**” Colossians 2:16-17 NKJV
- ☑ **So don’t let anyone of these, of whom He made a \*public spectacle, judge you!**
- ☑ \*Reverse one verse and see: “***Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.***” Colossians 2:15 NKJV (see: [Nailed to the Cross](#))
- ☑ Judge you by doing what?
  - ☑ Wrong way of instituting the laws of food and drink...
  - ☑ Wrong way of instituting the new moon or the feasts...
  - ☑ Wrong way of instituting the Sabbaths...
- ☑ **These have real life applications, but also have greater implications by serving as shadows of things to come...**
- ☑ “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘**The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.**” Leviticus 23:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ “who **serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things**, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was

about to make the tabernacle. For He said, **“See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”** Hebrews 8:5 NKJV

- ☑ There are prophetic shadow pictures of each of the above laws (Feasts, New Moons, Sabbaths).
- ☑ The Seven Biblical Feasts foreshadow Christ (First and Second Coming).
- ☑ The New Moons remind us of the schedule God instituted to chart His Biblical Calendar (the months and years). The month begins with the new moon.
- ☑ The Sabbaths, and notice the plural, speak of both the weekly Sabbath, which we rehearse weekly (obviously) as declaration of faith and trust in God, rest had holiness. The yearly sabbaths are related to Holy Days commanded around the Seven Yearly Feast Cycle.
- ☑ Passover: The Death of Christ as the Passover Lamb
- ☑ Unleavened Bread: the burial
- ☑ First Fruits: the resurrection
- ☑ Shavuot (Pentecost): the coming of the Holy Spirit
- ☑ Trumpets: His second coming (at the last trumpet).
- ☑ Yom Kippur: His judgment of the world.
- ☑ Tabernacles: the Millennial Kingdom (we rule and reign with Him for 1000 years). The eighth day of

Tabernacles is the Feast of Simchat Torah, also a Sabbath, the joy of God's commands into eternity (eight = infinity/eternity/new beginnings).

- ☑ **You see:** let no one judge about these things if the perspective is not Christ, in other words, "Let no one judge you but..."
- ☑ **...the \*substance is of Christ!**
- ☑ What does that even mean? \*substance of Christ?
- ☑ What you will hear universally is this. It's all about Christ. Your entire faith walk and life as a Christian is about Jesus.
- ☑ In other words, the only substance, the only thing meaningful, the only reality that matters, the only thing tangible and important, the only truth of any significance that has any valid use for you as a Christian is Jesus.
- ☑ All those laws were wiped out, nailed to the cross—Just like Paul said a few verses back!
- ☑ In one sense that is true (the the laws being wiped out, nailed to the cross) but the it is all about Christ.
- ☑ However—that is THE POINT, the Feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths ARE about Christ, so no one should judge you who is not seeing Christ in them; but what about

those who do see Christ in them? If the whole thing is about Christ, and you are NOT making them about Christ, or you are not making them about anything at all, what then?

☑ **But the \*substance \*\*is of Christ...**

☑ Note to self!

☑ \*substances = body

☑ \*is = a word added for clarification (or an agenda)

☑ Get ready to be knocked into another universe... **“Let no one judge you BUT THE BODY OF CHRIST!”**

☑ Maybe the landing won't be so hard as you have already been introduced to the idea that He DID NOT WIPE OUT THE LAW BY NAILING IT TO THE CROSS!

☑ Let's work through it...

☑ Substance means body... “But the body is of Christ!”

☑ And the word “is” is not actually in the verse in Greek. It was added for clarity because “But the substance of Christ!” makes no sense.

☑ But do you know what does make sense? Change “substance” to “body” and remove the “is” that does not belong there and you get. “But the body of Christ!”

☑ Let no one judge you about God's laws, especially not those hypocrites that don't believe in Jesus, who make

up their own laws and try to convince us we must obey them to be saved! No! Don't let anyone judge you EXCEPT THE BODY OF CHRIST!

- ☑ Yes, the church is SUPPOSED to judge the church.
- ☑ “For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? **Do you not judge those who are inside?** But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”” I Corinthians 5:12-13 NKJV

#### ☑ Greek Proof

- ☑ “Substance: body (sōma) [body, flesh; the body of the Church]
  - ☑ “Is of” is really just the definite article “the” belongs to (tou)
  - ☑ In other words, it says in Greek, the body the Christ,, which in English is the BODY OF CHRIST.
  - ☑ Don't let anyone judge you but the Body of Christ!
  - ☑ What a twisted mess just to get you to believe Jesus nailed the laws of His Father to the cross!
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- ☑ ***“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,***

*and **not holding fast to the Head**, from **whom all the \*body, nourished** and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.” Colossians 2:18-19 NKJV*

☑ **Let no one cheat you of your reward...**

- ☑ If you fall victim to the legalism of those who practice hypocrisy, you will be cheated of the fullness of what you received in Christ.
- ☑ False humbly
- ☑ Worship of Angels
- ☑ Dabbling in all sorts of practices of the unseen realm
- ☑ Puffed up in their own minds
- ☑ But worse of all you will MISS CHRIST!
- ☑ “And He put all things under His feet, and **gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His \*body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV

☑ **The whole \*body is fed and held together by Christ!**

- ☑ Yes, now (sōma) is translated as \*body here—and it’s the SAME word as we saw in verse 17 where it was translated as “substance!”
- ☑ Even in Ephesians 1:23 above “which is His body,” the word for body is (sōma). Only in verse 17 do the

translators see fit to call it “substance.” Sound suspicious to you?

- ☑ Some version even say “reality.” Those things are shadows and the real thing is Christ. In one perspective that is true, but not such that you then disregard them, but instead institute them with Christ at the center!
- ☑ “These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the **reality**, however, is found in Christ.” Colossians 2:17 NIV
- ☑ “Such things are only a shadow of what is to come and they have only symbolic value; but the substance [the **reality** of what is foreshadowed] belongs to Christ.” Colossians 2:17 AMP
- ☑ *He is **the Head**, from **whom all the \*body, nourished** and knit together...* It can't be better said than this...
  - ☑ “And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and **carried about**



**with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men,** in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **from whom the whole \*body, joined and knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the \*body** for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV [\*Body = (sōma)]

☑ *“Therefore, if you died with Christ **from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,”** which all concern things which **perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?”** Colossians 2:20-22 NKJV*

☑ **Basic principles of the world...**

☑ Is Paul equating God laws to the basic principles of the world, or to the commandments and doctrines of men?

☑ Of course not!

☑ Are the laws sin?

☑ “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded

much more, **so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness** to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

- ☑ Do I use grace to abandon the law?
- ☑ “What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Romans 6:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ To the contrary...the law defines sin.
- ☑ “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” I John 3:4 NKJV
- ☑ **As though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations?**
- ☑ If you died with Christ are you still living in the world?
- ☑ “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, **that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, **being past feeling, have given themselves over to** lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **But you have not so learned Christ**, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **that you put**

**off, concerning your former conduct,** the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be **renewed in the spirit of your mind,** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV

- ☑ Do you subject yourself to regulations? Is Paul referring to God’s laws?
- ☑ Paul lists some regulations which will perish. **“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle.”** They have no eternal value because they are just ***the commandments and doctrines of men?***
- ☑ He is not speaking of God’s commands here, but man’s commands. Y’shua also warned about this!
- ☑ “He answered and said to them, **“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”** Matthew 15:3 NKJV
- ☑ “then he need not honor his father or mother.’ **Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.** Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah [Isaiah 29:13] prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And

in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.** "" Matthew 15:6-9 NKJV

☑ **Is Paul equating God's laws with the commandments and doctrines of men?**

☑ Of course not!

☑ *"These things indeed **have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**"*

*Colossians 2:23 NKJV*

☑ **The commandments and doctrines of men have an appearance of wisdom...**

☑ Self-imposed religion: denominations

☑ False humility: I'm happy to submit to my own rules and even happier to force you to submit to my rules!

☑ Neglect of the body: things that show up on the outside so everyone can easily notice them and think I am very spiritual and holy!

☑ Those things have no value in your fight against sin!

☑ That is what has been **nailed to the cross!**

**NEXT TEACHING**

Put Off Put On (Colossians 3:1-17)