

(1) What is legalism? How have you understood this word in the past? Have you changed your view of what it means? In the sermon I defined legalism as “the tendency to regard as divine law things which God has neither required nor forbidden in Scripture and the corresponding inclination to look with suspicion on others for their failure or refusal to conform.” Does this make sense?

(2) Describe situations in your past when you were confronted by a legalist. What was it that they sought to impose on your conscience? How did you respond to them? Did you yield to their pressure? If so, why? If not, why not?

(3) What is the appeal of legalism? Or, why would anyone be tempted to embrace a legalistic approach to Christian living?

(4) What does it mean to be “free” from the enslaving authority of another person’s conscience?

(5) What is the difference between what I call a “life-style” legalist and a dedicated Christian who is simply trying to live a godly and obedient life?