



Title: No Boundaries

Date: 8.9.09

Series: Legally Yours

Text: Acts 15

Synopsis: The immigration debate in the United States is often heated and controversial and at times can be laced with racial and ethnic biases. For some, our borders should be open and immigrants should be free to enter with a minimal interference. After all, aren't we a nation of immigrants? For others, we should restrict our borders for the sake of national security and an overburdened economy. After all, why should we pay for another nation's healthcare needs?

So what does this have to do with legalism? If we are going to understand legalism, we have to understand the socioeconomic and political climate of the First Century Church. Circumcision was what bound every Jew to the Old Covenant and thus should be a requirement to the New Covenant. After all, we can't just let these gentiles in without any sort of due process. Sound familiar? Legalism attempts to place a heavy yoke where Jesus has placed a like one. Legalism attempts to establish a border where Jesus breaks down walls that divide. Legalism attempts to chain those whom Jesus has set free. Perhaps humanity will never have a borderless nation, but Jesus does have a borderless Church. At least that's the way it is supposed to be.