



Title: "I Don't Mean To Be Legalistic, But..."

Date: 8.2.09

Series: Legally Yours

Text: I Cor. 10:23-33

Synopsis: You know a person is about to say something very legalistic when they preface their statement with, "I don't mean to be legalistic." It would be refreshing to hear a person say, "I am about to say something incredibly legalistic," but sadly, that seldom happens. It would appear that legalism goes undetected by the legalist and subsequently the church. But why is legalism so hard to detect?

Legalism is often veiled behind words like "holiness" or "righteousness". After all didn't Paul instruct the Thessalonians to abstain from every appearance of evil? That sounds pretty legalistic to me. But didn't he also instruct the Corinthians that the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life? And didn't Jesus say that if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed? So are we free from the law or do we have to go through life looking out for things that even look sinful? What is legalism anyway and is it anybody's business? Maybe next time someone says, "I don't mean to be legalistic" I'll just say, "then don't be."