



# SUPREME

PASTOR ED NEWTON

OCTOBER 28 & 29

BREAK THE RULES



Community Bible Church

Sermon Discussion Questions: Oct 29, 2023

Pastor Ed Newton

**Title:** Break the Rules

**Text:** Colossians 2:16-3:4

**Target:** A spirituality that is produced in human effort finds the rewards in the hands of men, not the heart of God.

- I. **The Deception of Legalism:** *“Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.”* (Vs. 2:16)
  - A. **Definition of Legalism:** Religion of Human Achievement.
  - B. **Doctrine of Legalism:** Earning of God’s Acceptance.
    1. **Dietary Laws:** (Clean, Unclean)
    2. **Festival Events:** (Present/Absent)
    3. **New Moon:** (Give/Keep)
    4. **Sabbath Days:** (Rest/Work)
  - C. **Discernment towards Legalism:** *“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”* (Vs. 2:17)

**Question #1:** What “legalistic” practices have you seen influence Christians or modern-day church practices? What are the dangers of developing a routine of legalism, and how would it impact our relationship with God and our view of His mercy, grace, and forgiveness?

**Question #2:** In verse 17, Paul mentions that Old Testament festivals, sacrifices, and practices are a “shadow” of the things to come in Christ. *In what ways did these things point to Jesus, and what did Christ’s work on the cross accomplish that they could not?*

- II. **The Danger in Mysticism:** *“Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,”* (Vs. 2:18)
  - A. **Definition of Mysticism:** Pursuit of divine experiences subjective to human interpretation.
  - B. **Doctrine of Mysticism:** Only available to the spiritually advanced.
    1. **Worship of Angels:** (Superior than our Savior)
    2. **Visions and Dreams:** (Superior to Scripture)

- C. **Discernment towards Mysticism:** *“and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”* (Vs. 2:19)

**Question #3:** Which aspects of mysticism do you believe are appealing to those who practice them? Which verses or truths address the fascination with visions, dreams, or the adoration of the "divine," such as angels? How would you minister to someone living a New Age (Mysticism) lifestyle and encourage them to discover sufficiency in Christ and the Word of God?

- III. **The Delusion of Asceticism:** *“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—”* (Vs. 2:20)

- A. **Definition of Asceticism:** Extreme self-denial to attain different levels of spirituality.
- B. **Doctrine of Asceticism:** Spiritual devotion is measured by physical discipline.
1. **Abstinence:** *“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”* (Vs. 2:21)
  2. **Acceptance:** *“(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?”* (Vs. 2:22)
  3. **Appearance:** *“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body,”* (Vs. 2:23a)
- C. **Discernment towards Asceticism** *“but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”* (Vs. 2:23b)

**Question #4:** How would you describe the line that separates Christian disciplines (such as fasting and abstinence from sinful behavior) from the Asceticism discussed here in Colossians? How can we establish and maintain a balanced self-discipline in our Christian life without crossing into asceticism or slipping into self-indulgence?

**Optional Question:** Are there areas in your life where you may have strayed into asceticism and need to realign with God's intended balance? In what ways have you experienced a lack of self-discipline, and what effective methods or practices have you found for cultivating self-discipline?"

- IV. **The Distinction of Spiritualism:** *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”* (Vs. 3:1)

- A. **Definition of Spiritualism:** The transformation of a life is found in Christ alone by the Holy Spirit.
- B. **Doctrine of Spiritualism:** Revelation from God is always anchored in Scripture.
- C. **Discernment in Spiritualism:** Christ is ENOUGH!
1. **Kingdom Minded:** *“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”* (Vs. 3:2)

2. **Kingdom Grounded:** *“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* (Vs. 3:3)
3. **Kingdom Centered:** *“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”* (Vs.3:4)

**Takeaway:** Are we HIDDEN in Christ or are we HIDING Christ?

**Question #5:** *How is your attitude different when you do something out of love for Jesus versus doing something out of obligation? How could you live in a way that reflects you’ve died to the things of this world this week? What unbiblical standards of spiritual success do you need to let go of?*