

In your own words, define religious legalism. Have you ever encountered legalism in a church? If so, please share with the group.

Read Philippians 3:3-11. How might verse 9 relate to what we think of as proper Christian behavior? Does our good behavior make us righteous? Why or why not?

**Prayer Requests**

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Scripture References

1 Corinthians 8:3 • Galatians 4:9 • Philippians 3:3-11  
2 Corinthians 5:17 • Romans 6:3-5

- 1) Many people want to be close to \_\_\_\_\_, but even Christians sometimes have little desire to really know Jesus.
  
- 2) Knowing someone is not nearly as \_\_\_\_\_ as the other person knowing you.
  
- 3) Paul’s religious qualifications placed him at the pinnacle of religious life, yet he considered those qualifications to be \_\_\_\_\_ in comparison to knowing Jesus.

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4) \_\_\_\_\_: attempting to show God how awesome we are by keeping religious rules.

5) Legalism includes:

- Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ God's laws more than focusing on God himself.
- Keeping religious laws without a truly \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
- Adding human rules to what God has said and treating the new rules as \_\_\_\_\_ to God's word.

6) It's common for human rules and \_\_\_\_\_ to become a central, but false, part of someone's theology.

7) Knowing about Christ (or having good \_\_\_\_\_) is not the same as knowing Christ.

8) We come to know Christ better the same way we get to know anyone better: we \_\_\_\_\_ with him.

9) Going to church is a good thing, but it is no substitute for connecting to a Christian \_\_\_\_\_.

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.



Have you ever met a celebrity? If so, who? Describe the encounter to the group.

In your opinion, why do people get so excited about meeting a celebrity, but don't care much about meeting or knowing Jesus? Does this apply to Christians too?

Paul describes his religious activities (before meeting Jesus) as worthless. Are there comparable situations today? If so, describe one.

Continued on reverse.