

Beware of False Teaching
Colossians 2:16-23

Rich O'Toole

04/18/21

I. Let no one judge your freedom in Christ. Colossians 2:16-17

The most accepted form of **heresy** by Christians is not an in your face, full on lie; but rather a clever lie mixed in with some truth to make it palatable enough for people to fall into its _____.

- The person who judges a believer is basically saying _____ in Christ is not enough for salvation. **John 15:4**

The only doorway to the Father is an abiding _____ with the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

II. Puffed up people try to rob believers. Colossians 2:18-19

According to Strong's Concordance, the word "**cheat**" in the original language means *to decide as umpire against someone* or to count someone as _____ to receive a prize.

- Because of their imposing appearance, there is a temptation to worship angels; but angels should not be _____.

"In bypassing the Word of God and the Spirit of God, they were opening themselves to all kinds of demonic activity—because Satan knows how to give _____ experiences to people." (Wiersbe)

- False humility and the worship of angels do not make anyone more spiritual; the only way to correct the false teachings of a heretic is to _____ one's self on Jesus and His Word.

III. False humility cannot stop the flesh. Colossians 2:20-23

"In fact, the most rigorous asceticism can _____ with insufferable spiritual pride, one of the subtlest and most intractable of the 'works of the flesh.'" (F. F. Bruce)

- Self control is part of the fruit of the Spirit; but self denial, empowered by _____, gives the flesh an opportunity for pride.

"The Christian has the _____ of God within and this means he has godly ambitions and desires." (Warren Wiersbe) **2 Peter 1:3-4**

IV. Practical Application.

False humility which comes from legalism may lead to the sin of pride and feelings of _____, while judging others; but freedom in Christ comes from a surrendered life. **John 8:34-36**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Colossians 2:16–23**. What robbed the Colossians of their joy in Christ? What are some circumstances that rob you of your joy in Christ?
Philippians 4:6-9, Romans 12:12, Galatians 5:22, Proverbs 17:22
2. How would you define the following terms so a child could understand them: legalism and asceticism? How do these dangers exist in Christian circles today? What forms did these dangers take for the Colossian believers?
Galatians 2:15-16, Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:24, Acts 15:1-20, Galatians 3:10, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9
3. Why is legalism especially popular among Christians?
1 Corinthians 10:12-13, James 3:2, 2 Peter 1:10, Romans 14:1-8
4. What determines the difference between obeying rules and being legalistic?
Romans 8:14, John 16:13, Galatians 5:16-23, 1 John 3:9, Colossians 3:16, James 2:10
5. What emphases has the church neglected that cause legalism, mysticism, and asceticism to be popular?
6. Discuss the Practical Application to this sermon.

Some questions taken from Warren Wiersbe