



Are You
in Bondage
to a
Church?

**Is the burden of
serving in your
religion too great?**

**What did Jesus
mean by “my yoke
is light”?**

Is there oppression in belonging to a religion?

Galations 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

The Apostle Paul borrowed the term "yoke of bondage" from Peter, who, in Acts 15, used it in reference to the rules and regulations of Judaism. You see, years previously, Paul was involved in the same basic controversy. Accused of preaching "cheap grace," he and Barnabas were summoned to appear before the church leaders in Jerusalem. "Believing in Jesus is terrific," The religionists of Paul's day said, "but it's not enough. To be good Christians, one must also be a good Jew."

"Wait a minute," protested Peter, "neither our fathers nor we were able to bear the yoke of Judaism. Why should we expect the Gentiles to be able to bear it?"

"Don't let anyone put a yoke of bondage on you", echoed Paul. The yoke Jesus bore on His shoulders as He carried the Cross to Calvary is all-sufficient.

Galations 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

"If you add anything to the Cross in an attempt to obtain a right standing with

God, you're not saved. That's how strongly the Father feels about the sufficiency of the finished work of His Son," said Paul.

The Mormons are sincere. The zeal of the Jehovah's Witnesses is apparent. But their doctrines very clearly state that, although the Cross is a good starting point, it is not enough in and of itself to save a man. Even members of Christian Churches fall prey to this belief. Therefore, they're lost. The Word says if any man adds anything to the Cross, Christ profits him nothing.

Galations 5:3-4 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Suppose, while driving through town, you saw a flashing red light in your rearview mirror. You pulled over, and the policeman said, "your were driving fifty-five miles an hour. You broke the law."

If you said, "Oh, come on now, Officer. Lighten up. I never robbed a bank. I never shot a person. I never was involved in drugs. So don't give me this ticket." He would say. "I don't care how many other laws you haven't broken, you did break this one. You're guilty."

The same is true of the law. If you're seeking justification by keeping the law rather than by accepting grace, breaking the law in even one point means you're guilty—regardless of how many "good things" you've done in other areas.

Galations 5:5-6 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision;

It does not matter whether you're circumcised or uncircumcised, whether you worship on Saturday or Sunday, whether you eat meat or live on birdseed. As far as your relationship with the Father goes, this stuff is irrelevant.

Galations 5:6b but faith which worketh by love.

Grace does not produce lazy, hazy Christianity. On the contrary, as James would write, true faith works (James 2:17). Why? Not because it's got to, but because we get to.

We get to worship the Lord as a congregation. We get to start our day with morning devotions. We get to tithe and be free from our own greediness. We get to lift our hands. We get to share our faith.

Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised;

The Greek word translated "constrain" is a term used in sales. Paul said, "Like salesman, the legalizers back then put the hard sell on you to be circumcised. Today it's go to temple, distribute magazines etc.

Galatians 6:12b only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

The legalizers sell circumcision because they don't want to suffer persecution." Said Paul. The legalists who are trying to put you under rules and regulations are doing so to protect themselves because in so doing, they can look their fellow legalists in the eye and say, "We got those believers straightened out."

Galatians 6:13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

You'll be notches on their belts," Paul said. "They'll get credit for what they got you to do."

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

I'm not interested in notches on my belt." said Paul. "The only thing I glory in is Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross.

Now What am I supposed to Do?

John 3:15 That whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and **believeth** on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that **believeth** in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Stop trying to earn what Christ did for you already:

John 6:29 This is the work of God, that ye **believe** on him whom he hath sent.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever **believeth** on me should not abide in darkness.

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