

## Legalism: (Pharisees)

Matthew 23:23 NASB1995 [23] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, **and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;** but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

John 8:1-11 NASB1995. [1] But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. [2] Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. [3] The scribes and the Pharisees \*brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, [4] they \*said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. [5] Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?” [6] They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. [7] But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “**He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**” [8] Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. [9] When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. [10] Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” [11] She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “**I do not condemn you,** either. **Go. From now on sin no more.**”

The legalistic Pharisees were neglecting justice and mercy in this example of the woman caught in adultery.

First of all, where was the man caught in adultery? Why didn't they want to stone him? The Pharisees were neglecting justice.

When King David was caught in adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12) there were consequences, but his life was not required. God was merciful. The Pharisees knew the account of King David and God's mercy through Yom Kippur (scapegoat and mercy seat atonement goat – foreshadowing of Jesus as both our sacrificial goats) would forgive King David's sin. They knew the woman's sin of adultery would be forgiven at Yom Kippur and she didn't need to be stoned.

Jesus said he did not condemn her and He was the only one who could. Jesus was the only one that was sinless.

After Jesus mercifully saved her, He addressed her sin, and **told her to sin no more. Even Yom Kippur was never meant to be a license to get away with sin.**

We need to be merciful & encouraging to people who are struggling against sin, that by God's grace they can overcome it. I believe Isaiah 42:3 sums up the compassion of Jesus and how we should be.

Isaiah 42:3 AMP. [3] A broken reed He will not break [off] And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish [He will not harm those who are weak and suffering]; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

## Lawlessness:

The other extreme is that **if you don't repent from sin you will go to Hell.**

Titus 2:11-12 AMPC. [11] For **the grace of God** (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind. [12] **It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires,** to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world,

Matthew 7:22-23 NASB1995. [22] **Many will say to Me on that day,** 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' [23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'**

A biblical example is the the church at Corinth. People were living in gross sin, and still functioning in the gifts of the spirit. Without rrepentancefrom lawlessness hey would have been told to depart from Jesus.

Below the Apostle Paul is writing to born again spirit filled Christians who flow in the gifts, warning them.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NASB1995 [9] Or **do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, [10] nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.** [11] **Such were some of you;** but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.