

## **BREAKING OUT OF LEGALISM – IV**

### **“The Biblical Criteria of Spiritual Maturity”**

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If there was a pill that could cure the disease of legalism it would be a strong dose of sanctification, which describes the process we are going through as we grow spiritually. The legalists have drifted off course by pointing to the absence of or presence of certain behaviors that make someone a mature believer. Unfortunately, the criteria they point to are not always Biblically based. It is imperative for every believer to know what picture the Bible paints of a mature Christian, which is the focus of today’s teaching.

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#### **#1. THE CURE FOR LEGALISM IS A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF SANCTIFICATION, 1 Thess 4:3**

- A. Sanctification defined: to be separated from sin and become more Christlike
- B. Sanctification is progressive throughout one’s life
- C. Sanctification is different for every person

#### **#2. THE CURE FOR LEGALISM IS A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, Phil 2:12-13**

- A. We workout our salvation / sanctification
- B. We have God working in us to transform us
- C. Sanctification is a cooperative effort with God
- D. God’s role is dominant, ours is secondary

#### **#3. THE CURE FOR LEGALISM IS A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Eph 5:18**

- A. The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit, Eph 5:18
- B. The conflict between the Spirit and the flesh, Gal 5:16-18
- C. The believer lives in tension, Gal 5:17

#### **#4. THE CURE FOR LEGALISM IS A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLICAL MARKERS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY, Gal 5:22-26**

- A. Legalists define maturity by the presence or absence of certain behaviors, Mark 7:1-5
  - B. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious – they divide
  - C. The fruit of the Spirit unify people
  - D. The fruit of the Spirit are character traits displayed by Jesus, John 15:1-5
  - E. The fruit of the Spirit are not exhaustive
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#### **NOTES:**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is it important to understand the Biblical criteria for spiritual maturity?
- 2) Discuss the definition of sanctification
- 3) Why is sanctification different for each individual believer?
- 4) In Philippians 2:12-13 Paul tells the believers to “workout” their salvation in fear and trembling. What does this mean?
- 5) In what sense is sanctification a cooperative effort between the believer and God—the Holy Spirit?
- 6) What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? (Eph 5:18)
- 7) Describe the battle that believers live in. (Gal 5:16-18)
- 8) How would you define the fruit of the Spirit?
- 9) Read John 15:1-5 and discuss how this relates to our sanctification / spiritual fruit.
- 10) What is the difference the legalists view of spiritual maturity and the non-legalists view?
- 11) What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# *Welcome*

*to*

# *Hillcrest Church*

*Love God, Love Each Other!*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be  
burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

*Galatians 5:1*

*March 13, 2022*  
*Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THIS MORNING'S TEACHING**

Pastor Bruce is continuing his series "Breaking Out of Legalism". His teaching this morning will focus on the Biblical criteria of spiritual maturity, which stands in stark contrast to the legalists view. Next week's message will focus on chapters 22-26 in the book.

### **NEXT WEEK**

Pastor Tim Brooks will bring the message about the liberty we have in Christ.

### **JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE GATHERINGS**

Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm

Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access the gathering.

### **YOGA FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Is cancelled until further notice

### **BOOKS FOR THE SERMON SERIES ARE AVAILABLE**

Pastor Bruce's book on legalism is available in the back of the sanctuary for \$20, or any donation. The book is also available on amazon in the kindle format. All proceeds of the book go into the building fund.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)).

### **SPRING CLEANING / WORK DAY**

April 2, Saturday at 9am – noon. Stop in and help clean up the church. A list of work to be done will be provided. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be served.

### **PALM SUNDAY APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for our service Friday at 6pm.

### **EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Invite a friend to join in the celebration. Activities available for the kids. After the service we will have a potluck and enjoy good food and fellowship.

### **EAST INDIAN DINNER APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

The annual dinner is our fund-raising event for missions. We raise money for pastor Charles in Uganda and the Great Commission Fund, which supports missionaries in the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

### **CHURCH IN THE PARK JUNE 5<sup>th</sup>**

Worship in Garbolino park followed by a picnic

### **CHURCH PICNIC AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>**

Location to be determined