

## **Conservative - Liberal - Legal - Relative**

In an entry posted in the Guest Book on my website, a concerned brother declares, "Those who make an honest attempt to match the Bible's teaching to those expressed on this website will be hard pressed to do so." He takes issue with several points indicating that I teach that truth is relative and that I think that conservative belief is legalism.

Another brother, Eric. McLaughlin, responded to the brother and sent me a copy of his message. Thinking that his expressions may help others, I am sharing them with you. The writer of the note signed it, but this is not intended to be confrontational; so I shall not give his name though you may find it in the Guest Book.

Dear brother, I read your message to Cecil Hook about legalism. Are you a member of the "Church of Christ"? If so, you should be aware that there are many things people believe and teach as the "infallible word of God" that are merely traditions. You are attacking this work for something that it never intended to do. TRUTH IS NOT RELATIVE! But Truth taught through the eyes of a legalist IS relative!

The legalist platform has long been the hope of salvation by keeping the right commandments. The pure Gospel is that salvation is a free gift of God's amazing love. I'm sure you have heard the verse "By grace ye are saved through faith." It is true that, to some members of the Church of Christ, Cecil Hook is "liberal" and to some non-denominationalists, Cecil Hook is "conservative." But the main point is not conservatism or liberalism.

The main point -- no matter what denomination you belong to -- is that CHRIST IS GOD AND HE LOVED ALL OF US SO MUCH THAT HE LIVED A PERFECT LIFE, DIED AN INNOCENT MAN, AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD BY HIS OWN POWER. ALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING US RIGHT BEFORE GOD!!!!

Even though God made the world, He did not come to the world to be glorified in worldly ways. HE CAME FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BRINGING US TO HIMSELF. Legalism has taken this TRUTH and made it fit to man's views.

The message of the gospel is simple but man in his legalism has made the gospel too complicated. You see, legalism and liberalism are not just original to the Church of Christ. It plagues Baptists and Methodists and any other denomination imaginable.

This website "Freedom's Ring" stands for faith in Christ and that salvation comes only through Christ's Love!!! This stand against the bondage of legalism DOES match the Bible's teaching! We can not earn our salvation or improve our status with God by formally observing the Lord's supper every first day of the week, by singing without instruments, by trusting in our baptism to save us, by attending the "right" church. (None of these are biblical practices!)

Legalism refuses to take God at His Word -- AND THAT IS SIN! There is only one way to obtain salvation or to grow in the Lord and that is through Faith in Christ as our all in all.

Christians are being confused! Denominationalism and its cousin legalism are responsible for the state Christianity is in today. The doctrines of foolish men are running many churches. If Christians would have obeyed Christ, there would not be thousands of different groups in the Christian faith. We are responsible for leading people to Jesus -- not indoctrinating them into different sects! Jesus died for all people. Unbelievers,

Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Church of Christ-ians, etc. etc. etc... I urge you to take another look at brother Hook's teachings and carefully examine yourself in the light of God's word. I will pray for you. Please Reply. Eric McLaughlin, Portsmouth, OH, <ericottomclaughlin@yahoo.com>.