

# Three Choices in the Christian Life

	<u>Legalism</u>	<u>Licentiousness</u>	<u>Grace &amp; Truth</u>
Main Message	Obey the Law	Do what you want	The grace of God leads us to godly living (Titus 2:11-12)
Obedience	You must obey	You don't have to obey	You have the freedom and power in Christ to obey (Galatians 5:13)
Response to the Christian who sins	Repent, or I won't love and respect you	I love and respect you whether you repent or not	I love and respect you – therefore, repent (Revelation 3:19)
View of God's Word	A set of requirements for us to fulfill	One of many self-help books	God's power for a transformed life (Romans 1:16)
The Holy Spirit	He is generally ignored	He is used as a justifier for selfish living	He is the power for obedient living (Philippians 2:13)
How to live a godly life	I will try hard to be godly	Godliness is simply me doing what I want	The Holy Spirit transforms me as I follow his lead (Galatians 5:16)
Fruit of each teaching	Self-effort	Selfishness	Selflessness (Galatians 5:22)
Unity	Unity must be imposed on people	I will be united if it is convenient	I will persevere and seek unity because it pleases the God who loves me (Phil. 2:1,2)
Who to please	I please people for their approval	I please myself	I please others in hope of their salvation (1 Corinthians 10:33)
Motto	Do only what is lawful	All things are lawful	You are free – now serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Spiritual Gifts	Down-played	Exalted as an expression of individuality, and a basis for one's self-esteem	Promoted as a way for faith-filled believers to serve others (1 Cor. 12:7)
Authority figures	Exalted	Attacked or ignored	Respected for Christ's sake (1 Peter 2:13)
Sin, hell & judgment	Emphasized to the neglect of God's mercy	Rejected as culturally irrelevant, or non-biblical	Preached boldly in the light of the cross of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:31)
I'm valuable because...	I'm religious	I'm me	I'm God's workmanship in Christ Jesus
The Mosaic Law	The Law is glorious	The Law is out-of-date	The Law is part of God's gospel of grace
View of unbelievers	Different from us, so we look down on them	The same as us, so we identify with them	They are eternally different than us, therefore we become like them in order to save them (1 Corinthians 9:22)
How to evangelize	Pressure people to obey God's law	Above all else, don't pressure people – it's their choice	Passionately speak, exhort, and reprove people to live in God's grace (Ti 2:11-15)
Reaction to the legalist	Loves them	Condemns them for not preaching freedom	Loves them, and models and shares with them God's compassion
Reaction to the licentious person	Condemns them for not obeying God's rules	Loves them	Loves them and shares on eternity
Are we at war, or in a time of peace?	At war with people of different religions	At peace: the whole world is my friend	At war: Satan and his demons are the enemies (Ephesians 6:12)
Ministry model	Laying down the law	Laying down	Laying down our lives (1 John 3:16)