

THE GRACE AWAKENING
STANDING YOUR GROUND FOR GRACE
GALATIANS 1:6–10; 2:1–16



The Heart of the Matter

Christ has set free His followers. No longer living under the Law, no longer enslaved by the dominating authority of sin, and no longer plagued by a life of guilt and shame, believers are “free indeed” (John 8:36). Jesus spoke openly of His desire for us to “have life . . . abundantly” (10:10). What provisions! What grace! Free in Christ, we are liberated from the shackles, released from bondage of sin. Tragically, numerous believers do not live grace-based lives to the fullest extent. Far too many Christians are uptight, inflexible, inhibited, overly cautious, and filled with fear. The reason isn’t difficult to understand. The relentless, joyless, intimidating, grace-killing message of legalism has eclipsed the Son’s message of freedom, leaving us victimized and paralyzed, obsessively concerned about what others may think or say or do. Let’s expose legalism for what it is and explore the toll it takes on those who were meant to be free but are, in fact, living like slaves.



Discovering the Way

1. Defining Two Significant Terms

Let’s begin by taking a look at two significant terms: *liberty* and *legalism*.

2. Identifying Three Powerful Adversaries (Selections from Galatians)

Christians must be on the lookout for three subtle adversaries associated with legalism: doctrinal heresy, ecclesiastical harassment, and personal hypocrisy.



Starting Your Journey

To defend against legalism, keep standing firm in your freedom, stop trying to please everyone, start identifying legalism, and continue embracing biblical truth.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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by Charles R. Swindoll
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