



DATE	July 28, 2019
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Of Veering
SERIES	The Galatians struggled with what following Jesus really means. Some couldn't let go of the old laws, while others abused their new freedom. So, how do we fight the legalism of too many rules without creating a free-for-all without them? Is there a fine line between the two extremes?

Introduction: In this week's message we study the fine line between legalism and liberalism. We learn more about the apostle Paul and his personal, life-changing testimony and how grace is the answer.

1. Share a story or time that God spared or rescued you.
2. Think back on your life so far. In what ways do you find yourself veering towards **legalism** ("I will follow all the rules so Jesus will love me") or **liberalism** ("I love Jesus, but I will live however I want to")? Why do you think that might be? Has that changed over the course of your life?
3. Do you consider one of these (legalism or liberalism) to be a greater threat to the church? In your personal life, do you tend to drift toward the one that you perceive as the lesser threat?
4. "When we fear liberalism more, we have a tendency to just preach, 'Obey!' When we fear legalism more, we have a tendency to just preach, 'You're accepted!' Both statements are true. We should obey, and we are accepted in Christ. But if we fail to preach the cross, we will drift away from Jesus and into one ditch or the other."* How does the truth of the cross keep us driving straight and not swerving to the left or to the right?
5. Read Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-19. What stands out about Paul's testimony? How is it connected to Paul's message of the gospel of grace?
6. Is it possible to turn from God's grace?
7. Pastor David shared that the goal of Christianity isn't morality, it's union with Jesus Christ. Do you believe that you were made right to do right?

Prayer

Thank you for being a God that rescues us! We confess the times that we have veered too far to the left or to the right and ask for your forgiveness. Thank you for revealing the truth that Jesus is the only solution to our sin problem. We did nothing and can do nothing more to deserve the amazing grace you have generously given us. Give us boldness us to share the "Good News" of grace and the cross this week! Amen.

*McAdams, Wes. Is the Greater Threat to the Church Legalism or Liberalism? Radicallychristian.com. 1 Mar. 2017.