

# **What Kind of Church Is IBC to Be?**

**Part 1: A Church of Life**

*" We will be a church that reflects the "abundant life" Christ spoke of - a life of joy, peace and freedom (John 10:10; II Corinthians 3:17). We are never to be a church of religious rituals, traditions and rules, but a place where real people are truly transformed by the goodness of Christ (II Corinthians 3:18)."*

*" While still reaching our world for Christ, we are in constant fellowship with one another through authentic relationships, small groups and other church activities and events (Acts 2:46)"*

*" 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. 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law."*

*Ga 5:1-13*

*" You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*

*Ga 5:1-13*

*" You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be."*

*Ga 5:1-13*

*" Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."*

*Ga 5:1-13*

# 1. Legalism

– a mixing of faith and works

*" I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel"*

*Gal. 1:6*

*" You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?"*

*Gal. 1:6*

*" I fear for you, that somehow I have  
wasted my efforts on you."*

*Gal. 4:11*

1. We tend to think others are legalistic, but that we're not.
2. Legalism is highly contagious.
3. Legalism can take a vibrant faith and make it dull and lifeless.
4. Legalism produces large quantities of self-righteousness, judgment and condemnation.
5. Legalism makes us divisive.
6. Legalism makes it impossible for people to see Jesus.

*" He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-- not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."*

*2 Corinthians 3:6*

# 1. Legalism

- a mixing of faith and works

# 2. License

- “Faith” with an absence of works

*" What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"*

*Rom. 6:1*

*" What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!"*

*Rom. 6:15*

*" For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."*

*Jude 1:4*

# 1. Legalism

– a mixing of faith and works

# 2. License

– “Faith” with an absence of works

# 3. Liberty

– Faith demonstrated by works

*" But do not use your freedom to  
indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve  
one another in love."*

*Gal. 5:13*

