

## “Resisting Spiritual Intimidation”

### Colossians 2:16–23

**Intro:** Four areas of human knowledge that is raised up against the sufficiency of Christ for our salvation and sanctification: **(Philosophy V8-10, Legalism, Mysticism, and Asceticism)**

#### I. Legalism is spirituality that is based on Christ plus \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 2:16–17** — <sup>16</sup> *Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — <sup>17</sup> things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*

**A. What command is Paul giving the church of the Colossians? V16** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. In what areas do legalist judge others to conform to their rules?**

1. **Food or Drink** – What foods were prohibited? (*Leviticus 11 dietary laws*)

a. See **John 6:41** -

2. **Festivals** – What festivals are promoted or prohibited? (*Lev. 23 - Passover, Pentecost, Booths*)  
See **2 Cor. 5:7** -

3. **New Moon or Sabbath day** – Does Paul excuse Christian from observing the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_

a. See **Hebrews 4:1-11** -

**C. Why are these Old Testament observances a mere shadow?** \_\_\_\_\_

1. See **Romans 10:4 and Galatians 5:1** –

#### II. Mysticism is the pursuit of a higher subjective religious \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 2:18-19** — <sup>18</sup> *Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.*

**A. What commandment is given in verse? v18a** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Mysticism looks for truth internally** – it gives more weight to feelings, intuition, and inner sensations rather than external, objective, observable evidence (including the truth of scripture).

1. **V18b - He takes his stand on visions rather than his relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ or God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

**C. These mystics had other sinful tendencies: v18b**

1. Delighting in \_\_\_\_\_ and Worship of \_\_\_\_\_ - **1 Tim 2:5; Matt 4:10**

#### III. Asceticism is the rigorous practice of living a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 2:20-23** — <sup>20</sup> *If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” <sup>22</sup> (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup> These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”*

**A. What are man-made commandments that may have the appearance of wisdom to them?**

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**B. Why do these man-made commandment “have no value against fleshly indulgence”?**

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