

The Attackers: Principles from Rom 2:12–15: When Grace Is Rejected Legalism Fills the Void; Unbelievers Submit to Doctrines of Demons, 1 Tim 4:1–2; Unchecked over Time Results in Historical Downtrends; the Conflict of Progressive & Traditional Worldviews: Totalitarianism v. Freedom

27. From Paul's teachings in Romans 2:12–15 we can draw the following principles:
- (1) Regardless of how an unbeliever's conscience guides him, he remains spiritually dead until he believes in Christ for salvation.
 - (2) Regardless of how a believer's conscience guides him, he remains operationally dead until he confesses his post-salvation sins.
 - (3) The Mosaic Law requires the Jews to execute perfectly its divine mandates, both spiritual and establishment, which they could not do.
 - (4) Realizing that compliance is impossible to achieve, the Jewish rabbis, instead of teaching the meaning of the Levitical sacrifices which would reveal grace salvation, professed a strict set of guidelines from the oral law designed to control the people's behavior in hopes of fulfilling the Law.
 - (5) This is where a distorted conscience shifts away from guidance focused on biblical norms and standards over to the tyranny of legalism.
 - (6) The desire was to eradicate sin but sin was not the issue; the issue was belief in Messiah. Sin was judged on the cross and would be forgiven at salvation.
 - (7) Legalism attempts to resolve the sin problem through human good and evil, but Paul refutes this idea in:

Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

- (8) When people reject the grace of God they remain in unbelief and their consciences have become indelibly branded with the doctrines of demons.
- (9) The branded conscience can only produce human viewpoint which is expressed in human good and imposed through evil.

1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

v. 2 - by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared [*καυστηριάζω (kaustēriazō)*: to cauterize] in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

- (10) The intractable problem that emerges from this circumstance is when a majority of people within a commonwealth reject sound teaching and opt for human viewpoint.
- (11) The doctrines of demons become the worldview of the majority who, having rejected truth, respond to the hypocrisy of liars, i.e., those whom they have placed in positions of power.
- (12) With an ever-diminishing restraint over the people by the filling of the Holy Spirit, the body politic begins to suffer from the loss of order in the soul.
- (13) This loss of order is reflected in behavior patterns that have negative impact on principles of divine viewpoint which are designed to maintain order.

- (14) Those who still possess divine viewpoint express the need to return to traditional standards which often require the imposition of harsh discipline.
- (15) The traditional conscience recognizes the culprit to be the sin nature and recommends penalty clauses that would restrain the behavior patterns of those who practice its trends.
- (16) The Progressive conscience assumes traditional standards violate one's "natural rights" and rather than punish certain behaviors they aggrandize them.
- (17) Traditional viewpoint recognizes the strength of the innately formed sex drive and the dangers associated with it if it is not placed in its proper context.
- (18) If left unfettered, it will naturally express itself in premarital congress often producing offspring into a parental circumstance that is incapable of establishing a home.
- (19) In conjunction with this is the problem of sexually transmitted diseases which can often only be controlled but not cured while others are terminal.
- (20) The result of opioid release compounds the problem as its addictive nature motivates habitual behavior. Lack of restraint destroys the soul.

Proverbs 6:32 - The one who commits adultery with a woman lacks wisdom, whoever does it destroys his own life [נֶפֶשׁ] (*nephesh*): soul]. (NET)

- (21) The result is the destruction of both marriage and family followed by bogus problem-solving devices conjured by Progressive viewpoint.

- (22) The accurate conclusion from the Progressive mentality is “since young people are going to have sex anyhow we must insure that they practice safe sex.”
- (23) Why is this a self-fulfilling prophecy? Because when those in authority communicate to a willing target audience that they *are going* to engage in premarital sex, then whatever restraint their consciences might have offered will be removed; the logical conclusion is that it *will* occur.
- (24) Human viewpoint has led the Progressive ideologues into a situation whereby the results of their brilliant solution demands yet further government actions: (1) aid to dependent children, (2) sexually transmitted diseases, (3) fractured families, (5) single-parent households, (6) suicides, (7) adoptions, (8) divorces, (9) alimony, and (10) a growing subculture with an entitlement mentality.
- (25) Rejection of the traditional worldview creates a vacuum into which is drawn the legalism of government control that is never satiated.
- (26) The lust to create a man-made nirvana requires the Progressive to dictatorially impose standards of behavior that can never be universally realized.
- (27) Therefore, in the devil’s world there is a constant gravitation toward totalitarianism and tyranny, a circumstance toward which the United States is presently moving apace.