INTRODUCTION
• Extreme Legalism is alive and well – and so is extreme Liberalism
• What is the difference between good and bad liberalism?
• What is the difference between good and bad liberalism?
• Are we wise enough to know the difference? Does it really matter?

LEGALISM vs LIBERALISM TEST: True/False?
1. Pastors and Deacons must be men. □ T / □ F?
2. Older men can teach younger women how they should love their husbands. □ T / □ F?
3. Exceeding the speed limit is not a sin. □ T / □ F?
4. It’s OK to say dag-nab-it, son-of-a-gun, gosh-darn... □ T / □ F?
5. It’s OK to watch risqué shows. □ T / □ F?

Passage | Comments
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Acts 15:1 | What Do’s Do We Need To Do?
- Some say we must do the following to be saved:
  - We must be good | We must be baptized
  - We must recite the sinners prayer
  - We must walk the aisle | We must ___??
  - Pharisees and Scribes considered their legalistic surgery to be a must thing to do for salvation
  - The law of God, which has lots of DO’s & DON’Ts, has a distinct purpose → to make us aware of our sin and to lead us to Christ...Rom 3:20; Gal 3:24
  - The one work we need to DO to be saved comes from Jesus, Himself → and that is to BELIEVE on Him (to trust, rely on His atoning work)...Jn 6:28-29
  - Any other DO’s and DON’Ts might mature us & keep us from harm, but they won’t save us

Acts 15:2 | Tough Issues Call for Tough Discussions
- Some secondary issues might need to be tackled or worse problems can ensue, such as loss of unity and peace within the church, or even a church split
- What are some tough secondary issues today?
  - Calvinism? □ Pentecostalism? □ Other___?
- How do we tackle tough problems today?
  - □ Wait till the congregation dwindles down to half
  - □ Go to another church | □ Ignore it
  - □ Seek wise counsel early | □ Other___?
- Just remember Titus 3:9, “Avoid the foolish stuff…”
  This doesn’t mean we should avoid tough issues, but we need to discern and avoid energy-sapping, time-wasting arguments that deliver no value and cause more harm than good

Acts 15:3 | Always Make Time for Encouragement
- Notice, Paul’s entourage was “sent on their way by the church” – iow, everyone was behind getting this problem fixed – and they could not do it alone
- Even though Paul was under duress to resolve a major church problem, he took time to encourage others in his travels. He did not moan or complain, but realized everyone was going to mature thru this