

## The Situation:

People think Christians are \_\_\_\_\_.

## An Important Distinction:

Most people don't have a problem with \_\_\_\_\_, their problem is with \_\_\_\_\_.

Most think \_\_\_\_\_ is for \_\_\_\_\_.

## *The Dangers of Legalism*

### An Ancient Mistake:

Faith in Christ + \_\_\_\_\_ = Christianity

### A Critical Understanding:

Church is not about building \_\_\_\_\_; it's about building \_\_\_\_\_.

## Questions for Further Growth

For the week of February 28, 2010

1. Pastor Tim shared some statistics from the book *unChristian* by David Kinnaman. Did these statistics surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Read Jesus' words to the Pharisees in Matthew 23. What is Jesus' main concern regarding the Pharisees' legalistic behavior?
3. The best way to identify counterfeit money is not necessarily to know all possible forms of counterfeiting, but rather to know with certainty what authentic currency looks and feels like. The same is true spiritually. The best and easiest way to identify the false teaching of legalism is to know well the essentials of genuine Christianity. Identify and jot down the truths of the faith in the following verses.

### Truth About Jesus

John 3:17-18

Colossians 1:15-20

Colossians 2:9

### Truth About Salvation

Romans 3:21-23

Romans 5:7-11

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

How might knowing these truths help you identify false teaching?

4. Some early Christians taught that faith in Christ wasn't enough for salvation; that believers also needed to be circumcised according to the law in order to have true salvation. This legalist tendency is one that has stayed with human beings for 2,000 years. What things do you think we, today, unwittingly "add" to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a prerequisite for salvation today? In other words, what legalisms seem to be present in our churches and denominations today?