



## Everyone Should Believe and Act like we Do

### Galatians 5:1

Pastor Bobby Garvin

**Key Truth:** We are quick to impose rules and regulations on others.

**The Lie:** *If it's wrong for you, then it has to be wrong for **someone** else. If God requires you to do it, then every other Christian has to do it too. If we are not all completely uniform in our Christian beliefs and practices, then someone is **out** of line. If others are not acting, worshipping, and believing exactly as you do, then they are not good Christians. Maybe they are not Christians at all.*

**The Truth:** *The great news of the Christian gospel is that God does not **condemn** His children for either their past or their present behaviors. And since God does not condemn us, we certainly cannot justify condemning each other. Christian **legalism** is a slap in the face to the **grace** that Jesus died to give us. It **undermines** the work of the cross and reduces the Christian message to nothing more than another "it's all up to you" religious program (**Galatians 2:14**).*

**Key Truth # 1:** Give other Christians **permission** to be different from you.

**Key Truth # 2:** Keep your mouth **shut** and pray; **Key Truth # 3** Remember that God is still working on others, and on you (**Philippians 1:6**); **Key Truth # 4:** Don't make a big **deal** over minor issues. **Key Truth # 5:** Practice the discipline of **confession**; **Key Truth # 6:** Accept one who **differs**, because God has accepted them.. **Key Truth # 7:** Know the difference between the gospel according to the New Testament and the gospel according to **you**. **Key Truth # 8:** Be right in your **heart**, not just in your head.

**Key Truth # 9:** Don't violate your own conscience or your brother's conscience.

**Conclusion:** Maybe it is time for you to get off your high horse. Maybe it is time for you to stop trying to control everyone else's behavior. That's a heavy burden indeed. God really is big enough and strong enough to manage all the worship styles, behavioral differences, and theological nuances that crop up in His church. He does not need your help. Really!