

**“REFUSE THE SPIRITUAL COUNTERFEIT OF ASCETICISM!”**  
(Colossians 2:20-23)

**V. THE PROBLEM OF AND PROTECTION FROM FALSE TEACHING (2:4-2:23)**

**A. GENERALLY (2:4-7)**

**B. SPECIFICALLY (2:8)**

**C. DOCTRINALLY (2:9-15)**

**D. PRACTICALLY (2:16-23)**

1. **Application #1:** Reject the spiritual counterfeit of RITUALISTIC LEGALISM. (vv. 16-17)
2. **Application #2:** Resist the spiritual counterfeit of SPIRITUAL MYSTICISM. (vv. 18-19)
3. **Application #3:** Refuse the spiritual counterfeit of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(vv. 20-23)

\* What is personal asceticism?

a. The *rebuke* of asceticism (v. 20)

- 1) Their positional independence... “*Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world...*”

\* What does the word “*if*” indicate?

\* Is your co-crucifixion with Christ a past reality or a present possibility?

\* What does your identity with Christ result in?

- 2) Their potential inconsistency... “*Why, as though living in the world do you subject yourselves to regulations?*”

\* What does “*subject to regulations*” mean?

b. The *regulation* of asceticism (vv. 21-22)

- 1) It elevates the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the positive.
- 2) It focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the internal.
- 3) It becomes \_\_\_\_\_ if pursued to its logical conclusion.
- 4) It emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the eternal.
- 5) It seeks God’s blessing through human \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God’s grace.
- 6) It is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God’s Word.

c. The *reality* of asceticism (v. 23)

- 1) Asceticism appears to possess \_\_\_\_\_.

\* In what three areas?

- 2) Asceticism is \_\_\_\_\_ of any \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3) Asceticism actually leads to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

\* How can you personally apply this truth today?