

Law and Grace

Q. Did Christ come to destroy God's law?

A. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt 5:17).

Q. Did the apostle Paul do away with the law?

A. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31).

Q. How did the apostle John feel about God's commandments?

A. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:22).

Q. What If we keep most of the commandments?

A. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

Q. Isn't love all I really need?

A. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:2,3).

Q. Does law-keeping help get us to heaven?

A. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

"There is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace" (Rom 11 :5, 6).

Q. What really ended at the cross?

A. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians 2:14).

"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15).

Q. Of what do these "ordinances" consist? [Sacrifice & PO]

A. "This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein' is no blemish And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times" (Numbers 19:2-4).

"And this day [the Passover] shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever" (Exodus 12:14).

"And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover" (Exodus 12:43).

Q. What Is "the yoke of bondage" we no longer are under?

A. "Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing" (Galatians 5:1, 2).

NOTE: In the New Testament church existed some Jewish converts to Christianity who insisted on obedience to the Old Testament ceremonial laws of Moses along with a belief in Jesus Christ. (See Acts 15:1, 24 Galatians 2:4; 6:12, 13.) Because of these Judaizing Christians, Paul several times spoke against the "yoke of bondage," the "ordinances," and the law of Moses (i.e. the ceremonial law), which laws were done away with at the cross. However, these statements of Paul should never be applied to God's eternal law of Ten Commandments, without which there would be no sin (Romans 4:15) and consequently no need for a Saviour.

Q. Why do we need God's law?

A. "To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7).

"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass [mirror]: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:23-25).

Q. Why do we need God's grace, or loving kindness?

A. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Ro3:23)

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:16).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1 :9).

Q. Does God completely forgive our confessed sins?

A. "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb 8:12).

Q. What do we have after God forgives our past life?

A. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Q. Does this grace release us from a law-abiding life?

A. "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid" (Galatians 2:17).

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid" (Romans 6:1, 2).

Q. Is the keeping of God's law necessary?

A. "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3, 4).

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:21,22).

Q. Can man obey In his own strength?

A. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" (Job 14:4).

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jeremiah 13:23).

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Romans 7:18).

"But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law" (Romans 9:31, 32).

"All our righteousness's are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

Q. How then can we obey God's commandments?

A. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3, 6).

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh [controlled by fleshly desires], but in the spirit" (Ro 8:6-9).

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Q. Why do we need a "new heart"?

A. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will put within you" (Ezekiel 36:26).

"I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will write them" (Hebrews 10:16).

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and ... put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:23, 24).

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man" (Rom 7:22).

Q. How do we become righteous In God's sight?

A. "And be found in him [Christ], not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:9).

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12,13).
(NOTE: This is the key to the obedient Christian life-Christ working from within to create the desire [to will] as well as the action [to do] "of his good pleasure.")

"Now the God of peace ... make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ" (Hebrews 13:20,21).

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus ... make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (1 Peter 5:10).

"But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

"He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he [Christ] in him" (1 John 3:24).

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1 :6).

"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1,2).

CONCLUSION: Grace in no way makes void or of none effect the eternal law of God. The law points out sin. Grace removes sin. The law reveals the obedient life. Grace makes the obedient life a reality-Christ working from within causing us "both to will and to do of his good pleasure."