

Is there a CONFLICT BETWEEN GRACE AND LAW?

Ephesians 2:8 – 9 – . . . ⁸ it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus *to do good works*, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8 – 10 NIV)

The difference between *Pharisaical obedience* to God and *grace-motivated obedience* to God is that . . .

- *Grace-based obedience* is motivated by our appreciation for the grace and mercy God has shown to us
- *Pharisaical obedience* is motivated by the notion that we can win God over by the things we do . . . or the things we *don’t* do

Luke 18:9 – 14 – ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don’t cheat, I don’t sin, and I don’t commit adultery. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God . . .” (NLT)

Grace is opposed to *earning* not *effort*. (Dallas Willard)



SCC Message by John Aldax, February 28, 2016

Part 3

Law and Grace

Matthew 5:17 – 20

JESUS and the LAW

Verses 17 & 18 – ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means

Jesus Fulfilled the Law and Prophets in Two Ways

First he fulfilled _____ in the law fully and perfectly.

He fulfilled every _____ and _____ made about the Messiah.

Hebrews 10:1 (NLT) – The old system under the Law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.

Second, Jesus fulfilled the law by _____ for _____ our place.

Hebrews 10:11 – 14 – ¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (NIV)

Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets by *obeying them*, by *completing the picture* painted by them, and by *suffering the consequences* that we deserved for breaking them.

The CHRISTIAN and the LAW

The *moral law* is an _____, which makes it enduring and universal.

Verse 19 – Anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We are NOT told in the Sermon on the Mount, “Live like this and you will *become* Christian;” rather we are told, “*Because you are* Christian live like this.” (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, p. 11 & 12)

John 14:15 – If you love me, obey my commandments. (NLT)

1 John 5:3 – Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. (NLT)

1 Peter 2:11 & 12 – ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Verse 20 – For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Philippians 3:4 – 6 – ⁴ If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Romans 7:18 – 25 – ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

James 2:10 – whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 2:8 & 9 – ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.