

## GRACE VERSUS LAW

This is in response to a copy of another writer who is trying to make a point about Grace. All of my comments will be in (parentph.).

Why did God do away with Old Testament law (where in the bible do we find that God did away with His law?) and instituted grace? Because while the law had the power to let people know how far short they fell, it did not have the power to make them want to obey it.

(Is he saying we do not have the power to say "No" to ourselves if we get angry enough to harm or even worse, kill some one? Oh, and how would we know murder is a sin if God had not said we were not to murder? Or if we want to do away with the (God's) law we can murder anyone we want, as long as we don't get caught by man's law, huh?)

Let's suppose you have a tendency to eat too much chocolate. You want to be free from the habit, so you make a law for yourself: 'I must not eat chocolate. I cannot eat chocolate. I will never eat chocolate again.' You even convince yourself that for you it's a sin to eat chocolate. But this self-made law doesn't set you free from the desire for chocolate; it actually seems to increase your problem! Now all you can think about is chocolate; it's on your mind day and night. Eventually you find yourself sneaking around to eat chocolate because you told everybody you were never going to eat it again. You can't eat chocolate in front of people so you hide when you eat it, and end up feeling really guilty because now you have become a 'sneaky' sinner. Now you understand the pain of eating chocolate in front of people so you hide when you eat it, and end up feeling really guilty because now your sin comes from being 'under the law' instead of free in Christ.

(Let us say instead of chocolate, we talk about "Adultery" that is one of God's laws. Anyone can become a 'sneaky' sinner. You can't commit adultery in front of people so you hide when you do it, and end up feeling really guilty because now you have become a 'sneaky' sinner. Why have you become a sinner? Eating is not really a sin unless it is a lustful eating. However, adultery is breaking one of God's established commandments. Not only have you sinned against your own body, you have sinned against another person, and against God. Can we continue committing this sin until we receive enough power from the holy spirit to overcome the lust, or do we force ourselves, after repenting, to control the desire? In Act 2:38 Peter says we have to repent (admit the sin and control it) in order to receive the holy spirit. It all goes back to keeping God's laws.)

New believers often focus their attention on God's laws in order to control their passions, but it doesn't work.

(OH, Yes, it does. It may take a while, depending on how you deal with the problem. Fasting, meditating, studying God's instructions, and praying works. Evidently the writer never tried this method. Those of us who have tried it knows it works.)

As they mature, however, they learn to direct their attention to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and

discover that He can set you free from the desire to sin. The law requires living by willpower; living by grace requires drawing each day on the power of God's Spirit.

(Now this, I agree with, but first things first. However, one has to know what sin is and that takes us back to God's laws. Once we use information as to what God considers sin, and start using our own power, God will begin helping us by His power.)

(Now let me use a simple little demonstration: Person who makes the rules (God/Grace) to group outside: "Lunch is ready. Everyone take off your muddy boots, and hang your coats in the hall closet before coming into the dining room". "But, you said we could eat at 12: o'clock, why do I have to take them off now, it is only 11:30". "Because we want to give everyone time to sit in their place. The rule is everyone must be seated by 11:45." "You expect me to do that by myself? You are stronger than me. If you don't do it for me I won't eat". "That is your choice." Jr walks away and didn't even try because he thinks someone (Grace) has to do it for him. That makes as much sense as us relying on the holy spirit to do it for us.)

(Now let me tell you what grace is: The definition of grace is "Undeserved pardon for sins committed". Due to our parents willfully disobeying God (at the very beginning), their sin was passed on down to us along with the penalty of eternal death. People became so wicked God drowned them in the great flood. Then He started a new system of giving one family a bunch of rules to live by so that they would be healthy, prosperous, and happy if they kept them. When and if they broke the rules, they could sacrifice sinless animals to show the seriousness of sinning and to pay for their different kinds of sins. However, they, and all the nations around them, were still under the eternal death penalty pronounced on Adam and Eve. Once people died they would be dead for all eternity, but Jesus made it possible for the "Elect" to be resurrected and live forever.)

(All of the animal sacrifices were transferred to Jesus, He became the sinless "Lamb of God" who died in our place and removed the eternal death penalty we inherited from Adam. You see, Jesus did not have Adam as a forefather, as we did. Mary was impregnated by God's sinless power, and He was Jesus' only father. This plan ushered in the ultimate power of "Grace". If after we receive God's holy spirit which motivates us to keep God's laws, which are for our own good, it removes the death penalty at the same time. Grace makes possible for us to be forgiven each time we stumble through weakness. When we repent, (stop sinning) we are no longer effected by the death penalty. Does that give us the right to rely on (holy spirit) to do everything for us? No! God gives us a choice. He says "Choose life or choose death". Paul said we have to fight a strong battle against the powers of darkness, and against the lust of our own sinful flesh.)

(Hey, People! We don't have to make up our own little "chocolate" or "muddy boots" sins. Let us look at the ones God says are sins, and struggle not only to keep God's physical laws but add to them the spiritual aspect as well. If we have the holy spirit, and grace to rely on it can't be all that hard. Not only that but keeping God's laws are for our own good. Jesus said he kept his Father's laws, and that he did not come to do away with them, but to make them more binding (stronger). One of our most damning sins is believing man instead of God.

Some one might say, "Yes. but Jesus was born under the law". So, does that mean everything that he taught is at question, especially since both he and the writers of the new testament studied and wrote

from the old testament? Where do you think they got their laws from? When Jesus said keep the commandments whose commandments do you think he was talking about? He knew exactly whose they were and so did the ones he was talking to. Do you think he was referring to anyone other than his Father's commandments, given and preserved all these many years?

Some might say, "Jesus changed the old law to love, instead of keeping the old law." Anyone who offers that comment must have forgotten Jesus said "My words are not my words, but the Father speaks through me".

Let us get serious now, no more chocolate and muddy boots foolishness.

The Saviour did not come to abolish his father's law, but to fulfill it. (Matt 5:17-20) The word fulfill means to carry out, to do, to perform, to obey. Had the Messiah abolished the law, He would have contradicted his own words, for heaven and earth are still here. Besides, we could hardly be called sinners, for "sin" by definition is "the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4) and as Paul so clearly puts it "where there is no law there is no transgression." (Romans 4:15)

The Bible classifies all men as sinners: this means that God's law must still exist, for no one can break or transgress a non-existing law.

Christians who speak and write against the law of the Most High are unwittingly furthering the cause of Satan the Lawless One; and are adding to the enormous catalogue of sin of which the world is already guilty.

Personally, I see nothing but love in the ten commandments. In a future age David will be the king of Israel, again. And he wrote, OH, How love I thy law", and so do I!