

The Gospel Centered Life

The Law & Gospel (4)

QUESTIONS

This week's passage speaks of Christ being “the end of the law.” The question you want to wrestle with is what does this mean? Does it mean God's law doesn't matter anymore?

ANSWER : _____

Romans 10:1–4

...Christ is “**the end of the law.**” ...Jesus also said **we're not to dismiss the law (Matt. 5:17–19).** Which is it? What are we supposed to do with the law?

3 CHALLENGES for Christians:

- Face the **Tension** of Christianity
- Overcome the **Obstacles** of Christianity
- Embrace the **Balance** of Gospel Christianity

WARNING:

DANGEROUS IMBALANCE!! When we misunderstand the relationship between law and gospel, it leads to two opposite but equally destructive errors:

♣ **Legalists** continue to live under the law, believing that God's approval is somehow dependent ...

♣ **Licentious** people dismiss the law, believing that since they are “under grace,” God's rules ...

Both legalism and license are destructive to the gospel.

“ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” (Gal. 3:3). “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?” (Rom. 6:15).

TRUE GOSPEL BALANCE

Here's how God designed it to work:

- the law...
- the gospel...

"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Ps. 40:8).

Question: How do we become the kind of people who love God and delight in his law?

Answer: **through the** _____.

TRUE LIFE CHANGE

God graciously provides the GOSPEL for life changing:

1. _____ :

"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23)

"For it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law' " (Gal. 3:10)

2. _____ :

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that...through Christ Jesus...by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit" (Gal. 3:13-14)

..."we are no longer 'under the law'." (Rom. 6:14).

3. _____ :

"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Rom. 5:5).

"I have made you known to them...in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (John 17:26).

TRUE CHRISTIANS:

1. _____ God's law.
not out of...
but out of...

“love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom. 13:10)

James 1:25

“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” Romans 10:4 (ESV)

2. Are _____ to God, in despair, by His law.

3. Are unable to do what the law commands them to do, but _____ :

- ❖ perfectly obeyed the law for us. And
- ❖ because he lives in us by his Spirit, we are enabled to do it, not from obligation, but from delight.
- ❖ So every command in Scripture points us to our own inadequacy magnifies the good and holy nature of God, and
- ❖ causes us to look to Jesus as the One who forgives our disobedience and enables our obedience.

SUMMARY TRUTH:

*Realizing all that God expects of us should **drive us in despair** to Christ. And once we are **united with Christ**, the **indwelling Holy Spirit causes us to delight** in God's law and gives us “power to obey it.”*

TO BE HONEST...

- I am actively living the pattern described above and will continue to do so.
- I tend to forget the work Jesus did on my behalf. I would like to re-focus my attention on this act of grace.
- I was unaware that Jesus did this for me. I would like to learn more and start living a life of true faith.

SO, WHAT NOW?

APPENDIX:

THE GOSPEL GRID & THE LAW

A “grid” is a **pattern for thinking**, a filter to run things through, a particular way of looking at something.

Understanding the Bible and articulating the gospel in creative, relevant ways involves applying various grids to make sense of truth.

Every Scripture passage asserts a moral imperative, either explicitly or implicitly. For instance, a verse may tell you not to lie. You can respond to this imperative in three different ways.

LEGALISM: You can try your very best not to lie. This is what it means to live under the law. You will inevitably discover that you cannot **not** lie, even when you lower your standards about what that means. (lie to yourself, maybe : "I'm not wrong...")

LICENSE: You can admit from the start that you cannot obey this command and simply dismiss it as a biblical ideal you are not actually expected to obey. This is what it means to abuse God's grace and give in to sin.

GOSPEL: This is the grid we want to learn. It goes like this:

1. God says, “Do not lie. ” (God's holiness)
2. I cannot obey this command because I am a sinner. (My sinfulness)
3. Jesus did obey this perfectly. (I can point to countless examples in his earthly life as recorded in the Gospels.) Jesus did what I should do (but can't) as my substitute so that God can accept me (2 Cor. 5:17).
4. Because Jesus obeyed the law perfectly and now lives in me, and because I am accepted by God, I am now free to obey this command by his grace and power at work in me.

Applying this grid to your study of the Bible will help you believe the gospel and obey the law without falling into legalism or license. This empowers you to experience the reality that the gospel changes everything.

QUOTES:

In his commentary on Romans, Martin Luther summarized it this way:

“The law, rightly understood and thoroughly comprehended, does nothing more than remind us of our sin and slay us by it, and make us liable to eternal wrath... The law is not kept by man's own power, but solely through Christ who pours the Holy Spirit into our hearts. To fulfill the law... is to do its works with pleasure and love... [which are] put into the heart by the Holy Ghost. ”

Holiness: *“God's expectation that His people do all the right things, but are free to do them for all the right reasons & with all the right power.”*