

The Fruit of the Spirit

September 4, 2016

Galatians 5:1-25

LAW - The Law is God's instructions concerning the moral, social, and spiritual behavior of His people found in the first five books of the Bible. The Law is the very reflection of the nature of God because God speaks out of the abundance of what is in Him. Therefore, since God is pure, the Law is pure. Since God is holy, the Law is holy. The Law consists of the 10 commandments (Exodus 20), rules for social life (Exodus 21-23), and rules for the worship of God (Exodus 25-31). It was a covenant of works between God and man and was (and is) unable to deliver us into eternal fellowship with the Lord because of man's inability to keep it. The Law is a difficult taskmaster because it requires that we maintain a perfect standard of moral behavior, and then when we fail, the Law condemns us to death. We deserve death even if we fail to keep just one point of the law: "*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all,*" (James 2:10).

The Law made nothing perfect (Heb. 7:19). That is why the Law has shown us our need for Jesus and the free gift we receive through Him (Gal. 3:24).¹

GRACE - Biblically, grace is unmerited favor. It is God's free action for the benefit of His people. It is different from justice and mercy. Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we do not deserve. In grace we get eternal life, something that, quite obviously, we do not deserve. But because of God's love and kindness manifested in Jesus on the Cross, we receive the great blessing of redemption.²

"For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God".

Romans 2:25-29

Law keeping, in and of itself, is nothing under Grace.

Unbelievers – Law keeping will not bring us into a right relationship with Christ.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

Galatians 2:16

Believers - *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

Romans 8:35

"Legalism (law) appears to succeed for a short time, and then the flesh begins to rebel. The surrendered Christian who depends on the power of the Spirit is not denying the law of God or rebelling against it."

~**Warren Wiersbe**

Often the "keeping" of the Law is works motivated instead of Grace motivated.

Under Grace, what is my motivation for "keeping" the Law? To truly please God or to try and make myself right and/or accepted?

¹ www.carm.org

² Ibid

Under Grace, never go back to the Law.

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. **Galatians 5:7-10**

When Paul speaks from “falling from Grace”, he is not speaking of losing Salvation. He is speaking of going back to the Law after they have already found hope in Jesus.

The Spirit can overcome our flesh, we (the Law) can't.

If I am truly walking with the Spirit, I will have no need to have the “Law” because I am in tune with Jesus. The Law only lets me know I am a sinner and Jesus has fixed that. The Holy Spirit continues to work in me.

I have been set free from the Law and its bondage, and yet, I need something or someone to control my life from within, hence the Holy Spirit.

<u>Flesh</u>		<u>Spirit</u>
Adultery	Selfishness	Love
Fornication	Dissensions	Joy
Uncleanness	Heresies	Peace
Lewdness	Envy	Patience
Idolatry	Murders	Kindness
Sorcery	Drunkenness	Goodness
Hatred	Revelries	Faithfulness
Jealousy		Gentleness
Outbursts of wrath		Self-control

To live by Grace means to depend on God's abundant supply of every need. To live by Law means to depend on my own strength – the flesh – and be left to get by without God's supply.

~Warren Wiersbe

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” **Matthew 22:34-40**

Prayer Focus:

- That I would live by Grace and not by Law.
- That God’s grace would compel me to follow Him and His heart.
- That I would ask God to produce in me Fruit keeping with my call.