

Law vs Grace

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

Many are trying to swing the pendulum from law to grace and back again...what does the word say?

First, A beginning scripture

- Paul's decision...Romans 9:21..."To those outside the law (that is, who look to the law as a means of salvation and the giving of life) not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ (love), that I might win those outside the law."
- Also, John 1: 1-18 with emphasis on Vs. 17, "for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Two Laws

- Old Covenant...10 commandments and more were and are full of grace and truth. Laws include 10 commandments, Levitical laws, ceremonial laws, etc.
- All of these laws were and are fulfilled in Christ (Jere. 31:31-34). The New Covenant, new "law" written in the Blood of Jesus, has been written on our hearts by the Spirit. (see also Heb. 8:6-13)
- Christ is the end of the law, and the beginning of the law... we are no longer under the law that only exposes our sin (our inability to fulfill the law, which is good) and brings us under the law of Christ, which is love (see Romans 6-8)

Is the Law good?

- Indeed, the law is perfect...see Ps. 19:7-10
- The law is a school master, which is needed to lead us to Christ...eg like parenting to maturity. (Gal 3:24)
- We need the law...but which law we submit to is key!

Not under the Law

- We are no longer under the law but under the law...or Christ, and love requires that we have no other God's but God!
- As such, we honor our parents, never lie, steal or violate other covenantal relationships (adultery), etc. But isn't that the law? Indeed, but love demands that...
- We are now to love God, by...

Loving our Neighbor

- Which is how we keep the commandment of Christ.
- Luke 10:27 is fulfilled by submitting to the law of Christ

So, how do we live?

- Grace and Truth...review John 1
- Grace is both favor and ability to do what could never be done under the law.
- Truth is not opinion, but relational...as in, what does the Lord require of us...but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)
- For we are a New Creation...2 Cor. 5:17-21

Final Thoughts

- We must decide what we are to submit to. Christ fulfilled the law, in that the Old Covenant law, as marvelous and full of grace as it was, never had the power to save us from our sins...only Christ does.
- He has freed us from lawlessness...we can now fulfill the just requirements of the law (which are summarized in love, or grace and truth) by the Spirit living in us.
- Let us submit to the grace of God, the truth of His word, and the Law of Christ, which is loving Him by loving our neighbor as ourselves.