



The Balance: Law & Grace Part 1

Surely, a balanced diet is necessary to be able to vibrantly live life with health, energy, and immunity. A mixture of a wide variety of different food groups and its right amounts is the factor to a balanced diet.

While mixture is crucial for a good physical diet, it differs in the area of faith-living as a believer in Christ. According to Jesus, there is only one food that is perfectly balanced and able to give us spiritual nutrient which permeates unto life. The problem is the Bible comes to us in two different forms:

- Law
- Grace

Many can easily identify these two forms by the Bible's imperative demanding or declarant supplying tones; however, a few understand this division. Ignorantly, they either mix Law with Grace or try to balance Law and Grace by believing in two messages, thinking that a right amount of each separately is how the whole counsel of God is served to the people.

It is apparent that Law and Grace came from God. It is for this reason that many believe Grace and Law are to be mixed or balanced. However, the Bible calls this mixture or balance a **perversion**.

Let it be clear that God **does not** have two simultaneous messages, but **only one** - unmixed.

This is very important because know that justification, sanctification, wisdom and even redemption hangs on properly distinguishing and understanding Law and Grace.

A great man of God made an interesting point in regards to Law and Grace.

- “Virtually the whole of the scriptures and the understanding of the whole of theology—the entire Christian life, even—depends upon the true understanding of the law and the gospel.” – **Martin Luther**

The art of distinguishing and understanding Law and Grace is so we can properly identify by revelation God's one message today and feast upon it. Failure to understand this is the reason why many believers in Christ have a confused perception of the human condition, on how God relates to us, of the nature of the Christian life, and faith-living.

-So which is God's message today that gives spiritual nutrients unto life and faith-living?

John 6:32-33

³² “Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

Jesus starts off saying that Moses was not the conveyor of the true message. By the context, we can identify that Jesus typifies Moses with the Law. So in essence, Jesus discarded the Law as the true bread. Understand that Jesus is speaking to a group of people who all their lives devoted themselves to God's Law. So for Jesus to tell them that the Law is not the true message of God was really radical to them.

Jesus then continues to declare that it is our Father that gives us the true message from heaven. By way of default, we can conclude that if Moses was typified as the Law, then this bread that comes down from heaven and able to give life to every person is Grace personified through Jesus.

John 6:35

“Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life...”

God's one message today is the **Gospel of God's Grace** which reveals the glory of Jesus and His finished work. When you see the goodness of the Son through a sermon and believe, you ingest His Grace, which in turn will empower you to a life of faith.

To leave no room for the Law and Grace to cohabitate together, Jesus added by saying that those who partook of the Law in the wilderness are dead. In other words, Jesus was calling the Law a poison for imperfect man. Mixing Law in with Grace is like eating a nutritious salad and adding rat poison as salad dressing; or trying to balance Law and Grace by believing in two simultaneous messages is like eating a nutritious salad for lunch then eating spoiled shrimp for dinner. Yet, one may still argue the following:

- Believers need to hear the Law to live a holy life.
- Non-believers need to hear the Law to drive them towards their need for Jesus.

The ultimate experiment is by looking at Israel and the effect the Law had on them:

Did the Law drive Jewish people towards Jesus?

It never did. In fact, today, Israel remains in unbelief. It never broke them unto repentance. In fact, in the Gospel stories, the rich boy walked away sad and the Pharisees walked away mad. The only thing that was able to break through their stony heart, like Nicodemus, was when Jesus preached the Gospel of Grace. It is the grace of God that leads a man unto repentance.

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