



## The Balance: Law & Grace Part 2

In *The Balance: Law & Grace Part 1*, I taught the importance of discerning and understanding the Law and the Gospel of Grace. The purpose of this divine art is so you might be established in Grace and partake only of it, never mixing or try to balance it with the Law. It is imperative the Gospel of Grace be maintained extra virgin and in all its purity.

The great theologian stated the following:

- “The failure to distinguish the law and the gospel always means the abandonment of the gospel” – **Gerhard Ebeling**

What Gerhard Ebeling was trying to say is the purity of the Gospel of Grace’s proclamation depends on the distinction between Law and Grace. When Grace is declared and received in all its purity, a person’s eyes will be opened to see nothing but Jesus and believe that all their sins have been forgiven and be delivered from the sin nature; therefore, finally quickened to see themselves nothing but as the righteousness of God in Christ.

*-So why would God give the Law? What role does it play?*

Understand that God gave the Law of Moses only to the Jews to show the Gentiles (non-Jews) by way of example that keeping the Law is unattainable. It was meant to be an example of what not to do, instead of submitting under it trying to initiate relationship with God or correct wrong behavior.

This doesn’t mean that the Gentile had been excused from the Law of Moses because God put a mechanism within every Gentile to want to do right, even if it’s according to their own standard. This comes to show that the work of the Law is alive in their conscience accusing them of breaking the Law.

Without Christ, all people are under the Law. For this reason, God does not use the Law to change you or get you right with Him because it won’t work just as it didn’t work with the Jews as per history nor does it work with the Gentile because their continual guilty conscience of breaking their own standard of right and wrong condemns them on a daily basis.

Yes, there is a right way of using the Law of Moses but that does not mean that we should supplant the Gospel of Grace with it by trying to submit believers to it or expose it to non-believers in order to try to break them unto repentance. A thousand times no.

Perhaps the Law breaks a persistent non-believer and makes him repent unto salvation; however, like Nicodemus, it will take a lot for that new believer to warm up to the revelation of God's grace because having tasted the Law, it will continue to drive his natural desire (flesh) to continue to feed from the Law. I call it the Vampire Effect. This is why it is so hard for a legalist to see Grace but much easier for a non-believer to see it.

Instead, the right way of using the Law is to contrast it with Grace by filtering it through the work of Christ. Once the Law is identified in Scripture, the light of Grace will glow brighter when placed side by side. Then the finished work of Jesus can be plainly seen to the veiled eye and acknowledge the Gospel of God's Grace as the unrestraint power of God to do what the Law could never do (and never did).

However, the ultimate consequence when the Law and Grace are mixed or try to balance each other, the Scriptures will be misread and misused. Without the right distinction of the Law from Grace, the Bible will appear to be contradictory and schizophrenic. At one place it condemns and at another it forgives. One text speaks of God's awful wrath, while another declares His perfect love. Throughout both the Old and the New Testaments, the Scriptures reveal both God's wrath and His favor. One day sweet and another day sour. But know that Jesus Christ made all the difference and revealed the true heart of the Father. It is only through the Gospel of Grace that spiritual corpses are quickened unto life to live in Jesus Christ.

In the book of Romans, after Paul proclaimed that he was not ashamed of only the Gospel of Grace, he then went on to say why it was no longer necessary to teach the Law (wrath of God), either pure or mixed with the Gospel of Grace. The reason, as stated before, is because the Law was already written in every man's heart intuitively and a defiled conscience bearing witness. They already by nature know the things in the Law although not having the Law. Moreover, the Holy Spirit without the Law is in the world convicting every non-believer of not believing in Jesus as the Christ. The Holy Spirit doesn't need the Law to convict, only the Gospel of Grace.

Once a person becomes a believer in Christ through the Gospel of Grace, the Gospel of Grace continues to sustain that person with faith. As a believer in Christ, it is no longer necessary to be re-crushed by the Law or use it to crush a non-believer because the Gospel of Grace is enough to initiate faith in a non-believer and keep a believer in faith. The Gospel of Grace is enough.

**Galatians 5:1**

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

God does not serve one mixed drink or two separate cocktail. He only serves one – The Gospel of Grace on the Rock – Jesus Christ. You are encouraged never to mess with the Law again because mixing or drinking the two separate messages in the Bible will be of no benefit to you. Rather continue in the Gospel of Grace in all its purity and stay free in Christ never again being entangled with the yoke of bondage – the Law. Amen.

By: Joyner Briceño