

# The Basics of Grace

## Part 6

### Grace Life II

#### Law vs. Grace

How do we live our lives as believers? Surely we are to live moral, godly lives. We discussed already our new identity in Christ and that we should be living in this new reality. Does that mean we should we keep the law? Is it necessary to live godly lives to maintain our salvation?

- I. Living under the Law. By the Law we are referring to the law God gave to Moses (Exodus 19:3-6), but it is more accurately described as *God's* law—which is perfect. (Romans 2:14-15, 7:12)
  - a. Purpose of the Law. Law established to demonstrate sin (Romans 3:19, 20, Galatians 3:19-24, I Timothy 1:9-10). The law could never save; it could only demonstrate guilt. The law was meant to be temporary (Gal. 3:19)
  - b. Obligation of the Law. If one is going to keep the law, he must keep the whole law—not just the ten commandments (which would be hard enough). (Romans 4:4, Galatians 3:10, 5:3, James 2:10). Without Christ we would be judged by our deeds (Romans 2:6-11).
  - c. Curse of the Law. If you live by the Law, you will be judged by the Law. (Deuteronomy 11:26-28, Galatians 3:10)
  - d. Guilt under the Law (Romans 2:6-12, 3:19-20, 7:7)
  - e. Faith plus Works. This is part of the obligation of the law (James 2:14-17)
  - f. Is the Law for us? This is why it is so critical to rightly divide. The Law was given to Israel. Today, God's perfect law can show us our guilt, but it cannot save us, keep us saved, or help us to "walk in the spirit."
  
- II. Living under Grace. Because of Christ's work on the cross, we have His life. It is this life, living in us, that allows us to live godly lives, pleasing to God.
  - a. Freedom of Grace. We are freed from the law and sin. This freedom allows us to live for God. (Romans 6:14, 20, II Corinthians 3:6-8, 17, Galatians 5:1, Colossians 2:20-23)
  - b. Faith=Righteousness. It is not by works. We have Christ's righteousness. (Romans 3:23-28, 4:3, 22-24, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 3:9, Titus 3:5)
  - c. Removal of the Law—its obligation and curse. (by Christ's finished work) (Galatians 3:13, Ephesians 2:15, Colossians 2:14)
  - d. Is Grace a license to sin? If we are not under the law, can't we just do whatever we want? We are forgiven anyway, right? (Romans 3:8, 31, 6:1-2, 15-18, Galatians 5:13) Think of why is sin sin, or why is sin bad? Just because? See also first lesson (The Gospel). Hammer analogy
  - e. Morality under Grace. What does the Apostle Paul teach us about God's law? (Romans 3:31, 8:8-10, 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-14, Ephesians 4:24-31, I Timothy 1:8,11 (note parenthesis of 9 and10)).

- f. Christ's work in us. It is not what we have done or what we are doing, but what Christ is doing in us. I cannot emphasize this point enough. It is not that we should just try harder to live for God; we cannot in our flesh. (Galatians 2:20)
  - g. Salvation and Sin. We did not save ourselves so we cannot undo it either (Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit; that's a sure guarantee (II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30)
  - h. Sin and Forgiveness. Christ took care of our sin. It is dealt with so we don't have to deal with it. We can move past our sins (and the sins of others) because we are forgiven. We can then live in the freedom we have in Christ (Romans 5:1, 8:1, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 3:12-13, Colossians 3:13)
- III. Dispensational Difference. We are not under the law, nor are we saved by the law.
- a. Importance of right division
  - b. Right division leads to better understanding of God's purpose. In this case we understand God's purpose for the law.

Next lesson: The Body of Christ—God's purpose for it and our part in it.