

Sunday, September 15, 2019—Titus 2:12: Grace Our Teacher, Part 2

Grace A Superior System

- The Grace of God not Law keeping, or any system of performance-based acceptance teaches us how to live godly in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 5:1-2—we have a standing in grace that we access by faith.
- Romans 5:20—grace by its very definition implies that it can be abused, or it would not be grace. Should grace be abused? Romans 6:1-2—**GOD FORBID**
 - Romans 6:14-15
- Galatians 2:21—frustrate—1) Literally, to break or interrupt; hence, to defeat; to disappoint; to balk; to bring to nothing; as, to frustrate a plan, design or attempt; to frustrate the will or purpose. 2) To disappoint; applied to persons. 3) To make null; to nullify; **to render of no effect**; as, to frustrate a conveyance or deed. (*Webster's 1828*)
- Galatians 5:4—the Galatians had fallen from the standing they had in grace by seeking to place themselves back under the bondage of the law.
- I Timothy 1:6-9—remember the purpose of the Law? Romans 3:19-20—it pronounces the sinner guilty before God. That is why the Law is not made for the righteous man. Once the sinner comes to the place where he or she acknowledges their sin and receives the gift of salvation the Law no longer serves any purpose for that person.
- I Corinthians 15:56—when we make the mistake of thinking that keeping the law will produce godliness, we are giving sin strength in our lives.
- Romans 7:4—we are dead to the law, the law no longer has power over us (Romans 6:15).
- Romans 7:5—now that we are no longer in the flesh, we have the capacity to serve in “newness of spirit.”
 - Galatians 5:13-15—when the liberty given to us under grace is used to “by serve one another” we fulfill i.e., manifest the righteous requirements of the law.
- Romans 7:7-9—keeping the law gives motion life to sin in your life by empowering your flesh.
- Romans 7:25—the Paul that is Paul in Christ desires to do what is right and serve the law of God whereas Paul’s flesh is programmed to serve the law of sin. Therefore, the way we have victory over sin is not by following a list of dos and don’ts it is by renewing our mind and serving one other.

- These verses highlight why Titus 2:12 is so important. The Godly life that is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1-2) is produced by the grace of God working in the hearts, minds, and lives of believers. The law is simply not capable of producing what Grace is. Grace is a superior system.
 - II Corinthians 8:1-7
- I Corinthians 6:12—because the believer is dead to the law there is nothing that is unlawful for the believer.
- However, not all things are expedient i.e., **“fit or suitable for the purpose; proper under the circumstances.”**
- The test in verse 12 according to Paul is am I allowing something to have power over me. If it does than it is not expedient and should be discarded.
- I Corinthians 10:23—when someone asks the question is this lawful what are they essentially asking? What or how much can I get away with?
- To ask the question does something “edify” is submitting to a much higher standard than is required by the law. There are many things that are lawful but do not edify.
 - Use the situation with the Fellowship Hall as an illustration.
 - Was discussed the matter at our board meeting.
 - Titus 1:5—one of the roles the elders serve is to establish order in the local church.
 - We have received many complaints of late regarding the noise level, number of distractions, and lack of participation at the beginning of the service.
 - After the discussing the matter, the board agreed that this is an issue but that it was a different issue from mandating where people sit in the assembly.
 - II Corinthians 1:24—our desire is not have dominion over anyone’s faith but to be helpers of your joy.
 - The response of grace is not just turning the tv off and making everyone come sit in the auditorium. Rather the response of grace is to explain the situation and beseech the saints to be cognizant and aware of the desires and wishes of the other saints.

- We need to be respectful of time and labor of other saints who are trying serve the body via their time, effort, and energy.
- As long as we are diligent endeavoring to practice one another where one sits physically is not the issue.
 - Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20—saluting and greeting one another.
 - Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16—singing together as saints for the benefit of one another is one of the great privileges we have as saints.
- As your pastor, until we have the problem of not having enough space to seat everyone one in this room it will always be my desire for us all the sing, pray, and study together in one place. That said, I nor the board wish to have dominion over your faith.
- We do ask, however, that everyone honor the time at the beginning of the service by refraining from talking and getting seated so that we can respect the time and efforts those leading our worship service.
- Colossians 2:6—the problem is not with grace the problem reside in our flesh as we follow the residual brain wiring of the old man. We fail to consistently apply the grace of God and live in its transforming power. The pull of the flesh is to be religious rather than rejoice in who God has made you in Jesus Christ.