

LAW VERSUS GRACE (20)

QUESTION #10 – What are the main errors that have plagued the Church under the Grace System?

Under the grace system there have been three main errors which have greatly troubled the church in matters pertaining to law and grace:

(Error #1) - The error of Ceremonialism.

This is the error that tries to get people to keep the O.T. law in order to be right with God (**Acts 15:1**).

(Error #2) - The error of Galatianism.

This is the error that tries to mix law into grace. This is the type of system that says you are justified by faith in Christ, but you must also try to keep the law (**Gal. 3:2-3**).

(Error #3) - The error of Antinomianism.

This is the lifestyle error that says since we are saved by God's free grace, we may live any way we want. Paul warns of this kind of thinking in **Titus 1:16** and Jude warns of it in **Jude 4**.

It is true that if one believed on Jesus Christ and did no good works at all, he would be saved and would go to heaven (**Rom. 4:5**). However, never do you find in the Scripture an admonition to live as a heathen once you are saved. The admonition is to grow in grace and knowledge. We are constrained by the law of Christ.

QUESTION #11 – Since we are under grace, what exactly is the “law of Christ”?

In the N.T. there are certain grace passages that refer to the “law of Christ”:

- 1) Romans 8:2
- 2) I Corinthians 9:21
- 3) Galatians 6:2
- 4) James 1:25
- 5) James 2:12
- 6) II Peter 3:2

The law of Christ is the system of N.T. principles that a believer seeks to follow in light of the grace teachings and instructions which are found in the Word of God, specifically in the New Testament epistles.

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When one carefully studies the grace teachings, we may see that they break down four ways:

(Grace Way #1) - There are positive commands. **I Thess. 5:16-18**

(Grace Way #2) - There are negative commands. **Rom. 12:2**

(Grace Way #3) - There are governing principles—they cover every sphere of life. **Titus 2:2-11**

(Grace Way #4) - There are governing rules. **I Tim. 2:11-12; Heb. 13:17**

QUESTION #12 – What are the features of life under grace?

There are three main features to life under grace:

(Feature #1) - Life under grace has grace teachings which are independent and uncomplicated.

The principles that govern life under grace are, by their very nature, totally different and totally separate from the legal system of the law. In this present Age, every principle emphasizes the foundational truth that Jesus Christ has died, risen and ascended and the Holy Spirit, in this Age, now resides in the hearts of those who believe.

These important theological matters are often glossed over, but the sound student of theology realizes these were “age transforming” events. Under grace, man can stand in a brand new relationship with God based upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. The principles which govern this Age are all in view of this tremendous amazing grace reality.

(Feature #2) - Life under grace has grace teachings which are exalted above any other dispensation.

What is expected in this Age of Grace is, in many ways, more difficult than the prescribed Law of Moses. Since the predominant feature of the Grace Age is the indwelling Holy Spirit, we may naturally conclude that Grace Age life which pleases God will be uniquely in line with a supernatural Divine enablement of infinite power.

The uniqueness of grace may be seen in such areas as:

- 1) Bringing every thought into captivity. **II Cor. 10:5**
- 2) Giving thanks for everything. **Eph. 5:20**
- 3) Living a life that is worthy of the high grace calling. **Eph. 4:1**
- 4) Living a life of sacrificial love. **Eph. 5:2; Rom. 5:5**
- 5) Living a life that is led by the Holy Spirit and produces fruit for the Holy Spirit. **Gal. 5:16, 22**
- 6) Living a life that witnesses and tries to evangelize the lost. **Acts 1:8**

A challenge and heart to evangelize the unsaved is something very peculiar to this Age. Under the Law of Moses the emphasis is on Israel’s relationship with God, not evangelizing the world.