

LAW vs *Grace*

**UNDER WHICH ARE
YOU LIVING?**



John 1:17

Law vs Grace

For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

~ **John 1:17**

Law vs Grace

- There exists today among some a general misunderstanding as to the nature and meaning behind the words “grace” and “law” as seen here in John1:17.
- In addition this misunderstanding has given birth to some erroneous teaching concerning the nature of “law” and “grace” as they relate to those of us living today.

Law vs Grace

“Why do some people insist that Christians are ‘*under law*’ today? We are not under law, but grace. The law came by Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus (Jn. 1:17).”

Law vs Grace

- We must respectfully point out that the question recorded above reflects a serious misunderstanding of the nature of both law and grace.
- It is a tragedy of enormous magnitude that some, waving the banner of grace, argue that they are free from the constraints of sacred law, and thus are at liberty to forge their own route along the religious terrain pertaining to worship and Christian Living.

Law vs Grace

- We must always be mindful to never try to make the Word of God mean something that the Holy Spirit never intended it to mean, no matter what!
- Certainly the same can be said of God's grace, to which Jude writes:

Law vs Grace

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Jude 4

What Does John Mean?



Law vs Grace

- It may be said that grace, as it relates to the Word of God in particular is:

“Getting what you don’t deserve.”

For example when Paul writes that “***the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus His Son***” in **Romans 6:23**, this is grace because we do not deserve that eternal life because we have sinned (**Romans 3:23**).

Law vs Grace

- To define Law in a similar fashion, as it relates to **John 1:17**, is to say that we have obtained God's

“Regulation, instruction, teaching, conduct of God's people.”

If there s no divine Law today, **then there is no reason for us to even be here** right now.

Law vs Grace

- The terms “**law**” and “**grace**” are employed to simply designate a difference between the Old and New Testaments.
- The first covenant was that given through Moses at Sinai, commonly known as the “law of Moses.” The second was a universal covenant for mankind that issued from Jesus Christ, and was ratified by the Lord’s death.

Law vs Grace

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

~ **Matthew 26:28**

Law vs Grace

The Prophet Jeremiah referred to these Judaism and Christianity in another way.

- The Old Testament he labeled as “The covenant made with their fathers” (**Jeremiah 31:32**)
- The New Testament he refers to as the New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31**).

Law vs Grace

- The Hebrew writer even made a clear distinction between the two:

For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second... In that He says, “*A new covenant,*” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

~ Hebrews 8:7, 13

Law vs Grace

- John is simply doing what both the Jesus, Jeremiah, and the Hebrew writer did as well: differentiating between the Old and New Testaments.
- **The Old Testament = Law**
- **The New Testament = Grace**

Law vs Grace

- Why does John do this?
- It has to do with the **prevailing themes** that are characteristic of these systems.
- We can say with complete certainty that the Law of Moses operated as such:

Law vs Grace

1. To demonstrate that the violation of divine law separates the perpetrator from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**).
2. To declare that written law is needed to define sin (**Rom. 7:7**).
3. To show, by recorded precedent, that sacred justice requires that a penalty be paid for law-breaking (**Rom. 3:26; 1 Cor. 10:5ff**).

Law vs Grace

- The design of the New Testament or New Covenant is in representing the Redemptive Ministry and Nature of Christ.
- Jesus is **THE ONLY** solution for the sins and redemption of mankind.
- The plan of salvation through Christ is grace from God, not human merit.

Law vs Grace

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:3

Law vs Grace

You were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

~ **1 Peter 1:19**

Law vs Grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,
not of works, lest anyone should boast.

~ Ephesians 2:8-9

Law vs Grace

- There is no word more appropriate for the summation of New Covenant than that of “grace”
- In understanding the way each system operated we can see that it was entirely appropriate for John by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to label the Old Covenant as “law” and the New Covenant as “grace”

Law vs Grace

- At this point it may be asked, “*Doesn't this prove that we live under grace today and not law?*”
- The simple answer to this question is:

NO!

Law vs Grace

- The Old Law is often misrepresented as a written ordinance from God delivered by Moses under which grace could not be found.
- It is seemingly believed and taught that God ran things a little differently back then, and later moved from being a strict, hardnosed creator to a softer God in which grace is found.

Law vs Grace

- This view could not be further from the truth and we find an overwhelming abundance of God's grace in the Old Testament:
- **Noah** – Grace and Obedience (**Genesis 6:8; Hebrews 11:7**)
- **Moses and the Israelites** (**Exodus 33:13**)
- **God will keep promises and be merciful if Israel keeps His commandments** (**Deuteronomy 7:10**)

No Law Today?



Law vs Grace

- If we are not under law today then we would be forced to conclude that there could be no such thing as sin.
- This is because sin is a transgression or violation of the divine Law of God.

Law vs Grace

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness,
and sin is lawlessness.

~ 1 John 3:4

Law vs Grace

- **The Apostle Paul outright states that this is the case:**

Because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

~ Romans 4:15

Law vs Grace

- If we are just simply living under grace today without any Law then it would be unjust for God to hold any person accountable for any action if He had not specifically made a rule for that act:
 - Adultery & Fornication (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 6:18)
 - Murder (James 2:11) etc.

Law vs Grace

By way of contrast, since it obviously is the case that men (even Christians) do sin in this era (**1 Jn. 1:8—2:2**), the compelling implication is that there is a divine law to which men now are amenable.

Law vs Grace

- **The Law that governs us today was prophesied about by Isaiah:**

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days
That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be
established on the top of the mountains, And
shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations
shall flow to it. (continued)

Many people shall come and say,
“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the
LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
And we shall walk in His paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

~ Isaiah 2:2-3

A King On His Throne



Law vs Grace

- When Jesus Christ is repeatedly depicted as a king in the biblical record, clearly the concept is set forth that he exercises an **authority** to which men are expected to comply.
- If this is not law, there is no meaning to such terms as king, rule, reign, submit, obey, etc. (**Mt. 2:2; 28:18; Lk. 19:14,27; Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9-10; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 1:5; 19:16**).

Law vs Grace

- **The Disciples respected the law of their King.**

The inspired writers of the New Testament viewed the authority of the regime of Christ as one of law.

Our freedom from sin to embrace the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ is in our submission and obedience to His divine Law

Law vs Grace

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

~ Romans 8:1-2

Law vs Grace

- Was there Grace in the Old Testament?

YES!!!

- Was there Divine Law in the Old Testament?

YES!!!

Law vs Grace

- Is there Grace in the New Testament?

Without Question!!!!

- Is there Divine Law in the New Testament

With complete certainty!!!

Law vs Grace

- So what's the difference then?
- Why would John differentiate between the Old and New Covenants as being the law and grace if these have always existed together?
- The answer is found in one word **“Christ”**

Law vs Grace

- Jesus Christ is the glorious pinnacle of God's prophecy, promises, love, sacrifice, mercy, and grace.
- He is our King and Lord because He tells us what we must do to be pleasing to Him and to God.
- Through obedience to our King is found grace and mercy.

Law vs Grace

- It is both the Law of Christ and the Grace of Christ where we are told to:
 - Believe (**Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17**)
 - Repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3**)
 - Confess Jesus as Lord (**Romans 10:9-10**)
 - Have our sins be nailed to the cross in being buried with Him (**Mark 16:16; Romans 6:1-6**)

Will You Be Obedient To Christ

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

~ James 1:25

And receive His Grace in the forgiveness of Sins?