

NMM Discipleship Projects
The Producers Way School

LAW AND GRACE

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Understanding the difference between law and grace is just as essential as understanding our identity in Christ. This is imperative if a believer is going to experience a victorious Christian life.

- I. **The Biblical Basis for Law**
 - A. **Law—the system of performance or behavior which God set up to bless those who fulfill its requirements and to curse those who do not. Deuteronomy 28:1**
 1. **Its foundation is the ten commandments.**
 2. **it also includes the statues and ordinances which follow it. (sacrifices—yearly, 7-year, etc.)**
 3. **The law system is also the system every person operates from based on his or her own set of standards---not necessarily the law of God.**
 4. **It is an achieving system.**

 - B. **Who is under the law system?**
 1. **every person born into this world.**
 2. **all non-Christians Romans 3:19**
 3. **all who are in Adam**

 - C. **When did every person enter into the law system?**
 1. **Because we were all in Adam, we all entered into the law system the moment Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**
 2. **At that moment, we internalized the law system of being blessed for performing or behaving right and of being cursed for performing or behaving in an evil manner.**

- D. What can the law system not do?**
- 1. Give life. Galatians 3:21**
 - 2. Change your identity. Galatians 3:21; 6:15**
 - a. identity does not come because of behavior**
 - b. example—acting godly doesn't make you godly**

3. Make you righteous (ie acceptable to God) Rom. 3:20

E. What then is the purpose of the Law?

- 1. To show non-Christians that their identity is that of a sinner. Romans 3:20a**

To show non-Christians that they need something greater than the law or law system to have a relationship with God. In other words, they need Christ. Gal. 3:24

F. Is the Law bad?

- 1. No. the Law is actually holy, righteous and good. Rom. 7:12**
- 2. The problem is that the sinner doesn't want to obey the Law nor can he because of his identity.**

G. What is aroused in a person when he or she attempts to live under the law or law system?

- 1. a desire to sin Romans 7:15 I Cor. 15:56**

H. What does attempting to perform the Law produce?

- 1. Pride and self-righteousness for those who can perform it. Phil. 3:6; Matt. 18:9-14**
- 2. Guilt and condemnation for those who cannot perform it. II Cor. 3:6-9**

I. What covenant is the Law a part of?

- 1. Old**
- 2. Much of the Gospels are Law**

J. What is it like to be married to Mr. Law? Romans 7:1-7

- 1. He always tells you what to do.**
- 2. He always shows you where you have failed.**
- 3. He never lifts a finger to help you.**
- 4. You can never do enough to please him.**
- 5. He himself is always perfect, though.**

K. Was the Law ever intended to stop us from sinning?

- 1. No. Romans 5:20**
- 2. Do most Christians know or understand that?**

L. The law system causes people to be religious.

M. Religion is attempting to purchase God's favor and blessings by doing the right thing.

II. The Biblical Basis for Grace

A. Grace—the system of faith, trust and dependence which God has set up to bless those who are in Christ only because they are “in Christ.” Simply put—all is based upon God's ability and performance.

- 1. Being blessed by God no longer depends on a Christian's performance or behavior.**
- 2. A Christian cannot be cursed, judged or condemned by God because of performance or behavior.**
- 3. The grace system is clearly explained in Ephesians—beginning with Eph. 1:3**
- 4. It is a receiving system.**

B. Who is under the grace system?

- 1. every born again person**
- 2. all Christians**
- 3. all who are in Christ**

C. Are Christians under the law system?

- 1. No**
- 2. Romans 7:6 They have been released from the Law.**
- 3. The Law is a former tutor whose job is over.**
- 4. the law is for the unrighteous. I Tim. 1:8-9**

D. How did God get us out of the law system and into the Grace system?

- 1. Jesus fulfilled the law as a man. Matt. 5:17**
- 2. Jesus' death as a man provided pardon for all of my past, present and future "unfulfillments" of the Law (my sins.) I Peter 2:22**
- 3. In Jesus' resurrection, a new creation is born, who is out from under the law system and under the grace system. Romans 6:14; 7:4b**
- 4. Jesus' death as a man provided for the sinner who was married to the law to die along with Him. Rom. 7:1-4a**
- 5. God took us out of Adam and placed us in Christ. Romans 5:12-21**

E. Give some common terms used by Christians today in place of law.

1. principles
2. standards
3. rights
4. should
5. ought
6. committed
7. accountable
8. living by the Bible
9. in His steps (what would Jesus do?)
10. rededication
11. living for Jesus
12. expectations
13. discipline

F. Give some common terms for grace.

1. **want to**
2. **freedom**
3. **rest**
4. **desire**
5. **law of love**
6. **walking in the Spirit**
7. **Let us (instead of thou shalt)**
8. **accepted**
9. **faith**
10. **dependence**
11. **intimacy**
12. **security**

G. What resource is someone using when he or she attempts to

live up to the Law? Explain how Christians fulfill the law.

1. **flesh Gal. 3:3**

H. What two things did man need to be freed from in order to live in victory?

- 1. His slavery to sin. Romans 6**
- 2. His being “married” to or under the Law and law system. Romans 7**

Note: God accomplished both of these by putting to death the “old you” who was born under the law and a slave to sin. He then birthed a “new you” who is free from the law and under grace and who is free from sin and a son of righteousness.

I. What is the difference between OT laws and NT commands?

- 1. NT commands tell us to live like who we are.**
- 2. NT commands do not bring judgment with them like OT laws.**

J. What is the one commandment which encapsulates the entire new covenant?

- 1. Believe in Jesus and love people “faith expressed in love” Galatians 5:6**
- 2. Love the Lord your God and your neighbor as you love yourself**

K. What is the law of Christ?

1. love Gal. 6:2, John 15:12

L. What causes us to experience the blessings of the grace system?

1. Faith (dependence, trust, rest) in Christ as our life
2. revelation and illumination by our sovereign God
3. All of our blessings in the grace system are found in Christ Himself.

M. Why is understanding grace along with identity so important?

1. it produces victorious Christian living.
2. it creates intimacy with God.
3. it frees us from a critical, judgmental attitude.

III. Practical applications

A. Christian discipline

- 1. Are “quiet times” out of the law system or the grace system?**
- 2. What about prayer and Bible study?**
- 3. Is tithing out of the law or grace system?**

B. Holiness

- 1. what does it mean to live a holy life?**
- 2. how do most Christians attempt to stop sinning?**
- 3. Are Christians free to sin?**
- 4. do Christians want to sin in the depth of their being?**
- 5. what would you tell a Christian who wants to stop smoking but can't?**
- 6. what would you tell a Christian who wants to stop sexual lusting, but can't?**
- 7. what do you say to people who say, “I don't have to go to church?” “I don't have to read my Bible anymore.”**
- 8. what about obedience?**



Law and Grace Situation/Response Chart

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MINISTRIES

Situation	Law (Performance) Response	Grace (Identity) Response
<p>Temptation to yield to an immoral sexual opportunity.</p>	<p>God says I shouldn't do this. Even though I want to do it, I must say no to my desires and grit my teeth and obey God. Holiness demands that I resist this temptation. I have to say no to this situation or God will punish me.</p>	<p>Even though I feel like I want to sin, I choose to agree with God that I have been crucified with Christ and have died to sin. Therefore, these thoughts and feelings are not coming from me, but from the power of indwelling sin. I am a righteous, holy, child of God who is secure and significant, and who really does not want to nor need to yield to this temptation. Since I know who I am in Christ, I'm free to say yes to myself. <i>I choose to believe that God will meet my emotional needs for intimacy as I trust Him.</i></p>
<p>Personal failure or mistake at a task.</p>	<p>Why did I do that? What is wrong with me? I'm so worthless! I always mess things up! I'm such a failure! I need to do better. I'm not measuring up to what God expects of me and I know He is not pleased with me. I ought to do a better job so God will be glorified. My failure is a poor witness for Christ. I should be further along in my experience so I don't mess up like this.</p>	<p>That hurts! I wish I hadn't done that. But I choose to agree with God that this is not my life. Since everything I have and everything I am belongs to Christ (including my reputation), I have given up the right to be perfect and am willing to make mistakes. I'm free to fail. My self-esteem is not based on my performance but on Christ who is my life. It is good to be humbled. God gives grace to the humble. <i>A proper response to failure can be a better witness for Christ than perfect performance. This</i></p>

		<p>is an opportunity to learn and grow, and exhibit to others the peace and joy that is mine in Christ. Even though I failed, I'm still a 10! I'm going to see myself as God sees me and forgive myself. I am not a failure. I'm a saint who temporarily failed.</p>
<p>A family member or work associate who repeatedly hurts and irritates me.</p>	<p>This person really bugs me! I don't know why God doesn't change this person. I've got to hold my temper and try to forget. about it. God requires me to forgive 70 x 7, so I guess I have no choice but to ignore what is happening to me. I should act like a loving person in order to be a good Christian.</p>	<p>I'm angry over what this person has done to me. This hurts! I feel humiliated, misunderstood, and rejected. <i>But I choose to welcome this situation as an opportunity to let Christ express His life through me.</i> I receive this negative situation as a blessing in disguise. Since I am a new person in Christ. I am a forgiving person... even when I don't feel like it. Not to forgive would be inconsistent with my real nature. After I forgive, I'm free to ask God to cause me to see this person with His eyes and to discover the hurt inside this person that is causing the negative behavior. I'm going to look for an opportunity to bless this person and will ask the Lord if and when I might need to confront this person in love about this negative behavior.</p>