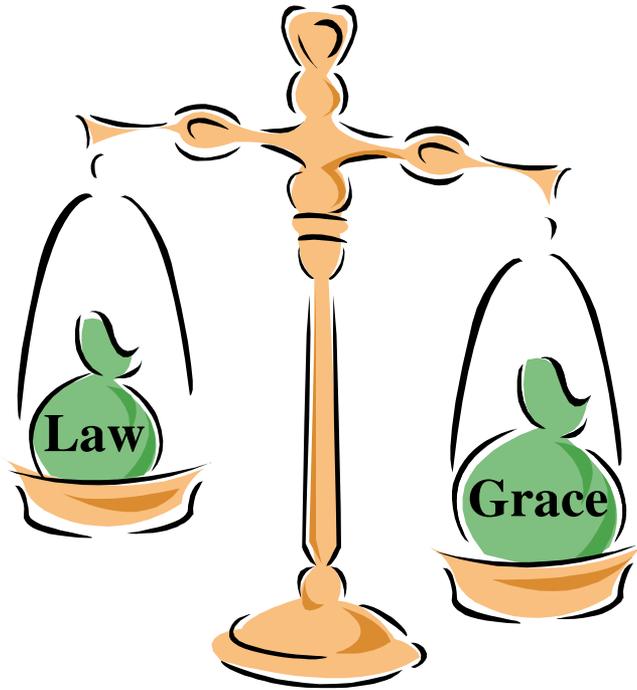


Law & Grace Contrasted



by
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(deceased)

<p>What The Law Is, What The Law Does:</p>	<p>What Grace Is, What Grace Does:</p>
<p>The Law is a mirror, manifesting the dirt on our faces, but unable to cleanse them (James 1:23, 24).</p>	<p>Grace is a fountain which cleanses us from every sin stain (John 13:10).</p>
<p>Three thousand men were slain when the Law was brought down from Mt. Sinai to Israel (Exodus 32:28).</p>	<p>Three thousand were saved on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on believers (Acts 2:41).</p>
<p>The Law is ONLY a judge and NEVER a Savior!</p>	<p>Christ only is the Savior of the world and He came not to judge the world, but to save it (John 12:47).</p>
<p>The Law is God's holy requirements of and prohibitions on sinful men (Exodus 20:1—17).</p>	<p>Grace is a loving God bestowing His favor on undeserving and repentant sinners (Titus 3:4, 5).</p>
<p>The Law demands that you WORK in order to be accepted in the presence of God (Galatians 3:12).</p>	<p>Grace says that faith is the ONLY WAY to be accepted in the presence of God (Hebrews 11:6).</p>
<p>The Law is a ministration of condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:9).</p>	<p>Grace is a ministration of justification (Romans 3:24).</p>
<p>The Law completely failed to bring redemption to the human race (Romans 8:3).</p>	<p>Grace through Christ's death brought in man's only redemption (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:3).</p>

What The Law Is, What The Law Does:	What Grace Is, What Grace Does:
The Law says, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:4).	Grace says, “The soul that believeth, it shall live.” (John 3:36).
The Law says, “Try” (Exodus 20).	Grace says, “It is finished” (John 19:30)
The Law stones an adulteress (Leviticus 20:10; John 8:5).	Grace says, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:11).
The Law tells us to get to work.	Grace puts into our hearts the DESIRE to “want to” work (2 Corinthians 5:14a).
If we are under the Law, who of us should not be stoned to death for not keeping the Sabbath (Numbers 15:32—36)?	Under Grace, Christ is our Sabbath and we are told not to keep holy days (Colossians 2:16, 17; Galatians 4:9, 10).
It takes more than the Law to change a sinner’s heart (Jeremiah 13:23).	It takes NOTHING MORE than the Grace of God to change any sinner’s heart (Titus 2:11).
The Law left the rich, lawkeeping, young ruler lacking something (Matthew 19:20).	Grace makes every believer complete n Christ, lacking nothing (Colossians 2:10).
Lawkeeping encouraged the Pharisee to boast in his prayers before God (Luke 18:11—12).	Grace humbles us in realizing that we have nothing to boast in but the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14).

What The Law Is, What The Law Does:	What Grace Is, What Grace Does:
The Law says, “Do and live” (Ezekiel 18:21).	Grace says, “Believe and really live” (John 6:35b).
The Law shuts every mouth before God in condemnation and guilt (Romans 2:19).	Grace opens every believer’s mouth in confidence before the throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16).
The Law curses (Deuteronomy 28:15—68; Galatians 3:10).	Grace redeems from the curse and blesses (Galatians 3:12).
The Law kills (Exodus 21:12—17).	Grace makes alive (Romans 5:17).
The Law says, “An eye for an eye” (Exodus 21:24).	Grace says, “Resist not evil but returns good for evil” (Romans 12:17, 21).
The Law is a religion of probation (Galatians 3:10).	Grace is a gospel of eternal certainty (Hebrews 12:28).
The Law, when on the throne, brought only condemnation and death (Romans 5:20).	Grace, now on the throne, brings only life and blessings (Romans 5:17).
The Age of Law ended at the cross (Colossians 2:14; John 1:17).	The Age of Grace began at the cross and the Covenant of Grace will never end (Hebrews 13:20).

What The Law Is, What The Law Does:	What Grace Is, What Grace Does:
No man ever kept the Law perfectly except Christ (John 8:46).	But Grace enables us to FULFILL the righteousness of the Law if we “walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit (Romans 8:4).
The Law NEVER made ANY man righteous (Galatians 2:16; Acts 13:39).	Grace makes EVERY believer righteous in Christ (Romans 3:24).
The Law is both a chain and a yoke (James 2:20; Acts 15:10).	Grace is NOT LAWLESSNESS but a freedom that makes us willing love slaves of Christ (Galatians 5:1).
The Law was made for the sinner and the ungodly (1 Timothy 1:9).	God does not call the believer “sinners” or “ungodly,” so the Law was not made for us (1 Timothy 1:9).
The Law puts an insurmountable wall between Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14, 15).	Grace broke down this wall and made both Jew and Gentile one (Ephesians 2:14—18).
The Law kept man from the presence of God behind the veil in the temple (Hebrews 9:6—8).	Grace rent that veil from top to bottom; so that all might come directly to God through Christ (Hebrews 10:10, 20).
The Law puts a great and guilty distance between God and man (Exodus 19:12, 13, 23).	Grace reconciles and brings the believer as close to God as Christ (Ephesians 1:6; 2:13).

<p style="text-align: center;">What The Law Is, What The Law Does:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What Grace Is, What Grace Does:</p>
<p>Paul found out that the Law could not even give him victory over his own flesh (Romans 7:9—25).</p>	<p>Be he found that through Christ and His Grace he could gain the victory over every sin (Romans 7:25).</p>
<p>The Law was only Israel's schoolmaster till Christ came, disciplining them as little children (Galatians 3:24).</p>	<p>Grace does not place us as little children under a schoolmaster, but as full-grown sons by adoption into the family of God (Galatians 4:1—5).</p>
<p>The legalist claim that no one can be righteous who is not under the Law (Galatians 3:24).</p>	<p>However, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph and Job were declared righteous BEFORE THE LAW was given because of their faith in the Grace of God. (Hebrews 11).</p>
<p>The legalists at the Jerusalem Conference said that the Gentiles had to keep the Law to be saved (Acts 15:1, 5b).</p>	<p>Peter answered, saying that the Gentiles were saved by Grace through faith WITHOUT THE LAW (Acts 15:7—12).</p>
<p>Legality split the Church at Antioch into two hostile divisions (Galatians 2:11—14).</p>	<p>The Grace message preached by Paul is the only message that could bring it back together (Galatians 2:15—21).</p>
<p>The Law was ONLY A PARENTHESIS in God's great plan of redemption (Galatians 3:19).</p>	<p>Grace was ALWAYS God's plan of dealing with man in every age (Psalm 103:17).</p>

What The Law Is, What The Law Does:	What Grace Is, What Grace Does:
At Mt. Sinai, Israel accepted and put themselves UNDER the Old Covenant of Law (Exodus 19:3—8).	At Calvary, we came UNDER the New Testament, the New Covenant of Grace, one entirely different than the Law (Hebrews 8:6—13).
The Law “was added” only as a TEMPORARY covenant (Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 8:5—13).	Grace is an everlasting covenant (Hebrews 13:20; Romans 5:21).
The ceremonial laws were fulfilled at the cross because they produced dead works which were only types of good things to come (Hebrews 10:1).	Grace takes the place of the types because it is the substance, the answer, and reality of the types (Hebrews 9:8—10).
The moral Law was also FULFILLED at the cross because the moral Law could not justify or give life (Acts 13:39; Galatians 3:21).	Grace took its place because it could give both life and justification (Romans 3:24; 6:23).
The Law was never given to the Gentiles, but ONLY to Israel (Romans 2:14; Exodus 19:5).	“The Grace of God... hath appeared to all men,” Jew and Gentile (Titus 2:11).
The New Testament never says that the Law is our guide.	It does say that the Holy Spirit is our Guide (John 16:13).

What The Law Is, What The Law Does:	What Grace Is, What Grace Does:
<p>Those taking the Law to live by reject the authority of Christ and His New Testament of Grace (Hebrews 8:10-12).</p>	<p>Grace recognizes that Christ's authority and His New Testament is God's last and final word to mankind (Hebrews 1:1, 2).</p>
<p>The New Testament does not say that we are going to be judged by the Law.</p>	<p>It does say that we are going to be judged by Jesus' word and Paul's gospel (John 12:48; Romans 2:16).</p>

Our last word is that many more words could be said on this vital subject. Remember too, you cannot have a message of half-Law and half-Grace. Grace and Law cannot mix (Romans 11:6). God's terrible curse was upon the Judaizers, the legalists, who told the Galatians to reject Paul's message of Grace, saying that they needed the Law to perfect them.

Grace not only saves, but perfects; so we do not need the Law, because true Grace, by the enabling of the Holy Spirit, will empower us to lead a most glorious life of victory and will not lead us for one moment into a life of sin. Perish the thought! The Grace message establishes, honors and exalts the Law in its rightful place.

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Edited and reprinted March 2001
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