

Howards Corner

More teachings on Law and Grace

If you have been reading my previous writings, you will see some of the results of being in Christ and being a part of the kingdom and filled with the Holy Spirit. After the beatitudes Jesus says that we are to be salt and light to the world. If we are in the kingdom, we are no longer to be like the world but rather to show the spirit that is in us to the world around us.

If, however we are still following the law for our righteousness and have not found the freedom of the spirit which is found in grace alone, we will not have light and salt in us to affect the world around us. Keeping laws and rules and regulations do not produce righteousness and love and peace and joy. The world already has laws and rules, and regulations enough so why would they look to us as examples of salt and light.

Are you still carrying the burden of the law on your back and have not found the peace of surrender to Jesus for your righteousness? Remember in Acts 15 Peter said why do we (Jews) try to put this yoke on the gentiles which you nor I have been able to bear. The Holy Spirit had been given freely to the gentiles by faith alone to the people at Cornelius' house.

Why do I keep coming back to this issue of law and grace? It is because I see in the church many that are battling with things like -What can I do on the sabbath? – How much is a tithe? –Is it on the gross or the net? – Am I forgiven if I fail to keep the law? Is the law a burden for you or have you found freedom yet? Let your burden go and trust in Christ Jesus for He said my yoke is light.

Now when you see the next section of statements by Jesus you must then consider what is the letter of the law and what is the spirit of the law. Remember the Pharisees were excellent in keeping the letter of the law, but Jesus said we must be more righteous than the Pharisees to enter the kingdom of God. We must be careful here also because we may judge the pharisees as not being righteous but fail to see that we are also guilty of much. Judging others is a dangerous business.

It is said "Do not murder for you will be subject to the judgment." But I say that if anyone is angry with his brother, he is subject to judgment and anyone who calls his brother a fool is in danger of hell fire.

Therefore, Jesus has upped the ante. Now it is not just the letter of the law it has now been escalated to the spirit of the law. Now you cannot depend on just not murdering a person but on the condition of your heart toward that person. Now we do not only have a written law but a spiritual law about murder. It is also true for all the other laws that there is a spirit of the law and a letter of the law. How do we know then what the spiritual part laws are except they come from the spirit of Christ that lives in us as Christians?

It is obvious to me then that no man can keep the law because we do not even understand what the spiritual side of the law is except by Jesus' word and the Holy Spirit. No man has kept these laws and all the requirements except Jesus who fully fulfilled the law and lived a sinless life and then died on the cross, so our sins are wiped away if we place our trust in Him alone for our forgiveness and salvation.

Our part then is to admit that we are sinners and cannot keep the law and turn from the law to the grace offered to us and seek the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and bring about His righteousness in our hearts and lives. We cannot create righteousness in ourselves because we have a corrupted heart from the beginning therefore, we must acquire righteousness from some other source and there is only one source available and that is in Christ Jesus.

Be free indeed and abide in the spirit of Jesus.

Howard