

Howards Corner

Beyond the Ten Commandments

I have written several writings on Law and Grace, but I am still trying to open hearts in the church to understand that we as Christians have never been under the Law but have been under the Grace of God for our salvation and our walk with Jesus and our right living. The Jews could not keep the law, and neither can we, so it is from this perspective I continue to try to show you different ways to look at the Law and to look at the freedom that was given to us by the life and death of Jesus on that cross.

The reason I keep coming back to this subject is that I see that many in the church are still referring to keeping the Ten Commandments. I also hear from the pulpit references to the Ten Commandments. It is obvious that there is still confusion in the church as to why we are not under law and are under grace. The answer is that law produces guilt because **we are guilty** and cannot keep the law. The law points up our guilt but does not produce a new heart. God wants us to have a new heart produced by love and the power of the Holy Spirit, not by rules and requirements. That is why Jesus came to give us a new heart. It was by trusting in Him alone for our salvation that we found forgiveness and received a new heart when the Holy Spirit came into us.

To trust in ourselves to keep the law we are saying we are righteous in our own selves and are therefore saying we can save ourselves. This is pride and not a humble approach to God. The first step to receiving salvation is to understand that we are guilty and a broken vessel and

need salvation and cannot save ourselves. Unless we humble ourselves and seek God's forgiveness, we cannot get a new heart but will still be bound by our desire to do better in our own strength.

I have offered these thoughts, but it is written plainly in the scriptures that our "salvation is by grace through faith and that not of yourself but is the gift of God so no one can boast" but if I have to use scripture to convince you then I suspect you have not been "born again" with a new spirit for the Holy Spirit will teach you the truth. When the Son has set you free you are free indeed. The shackles have been removed and you can move freely in His grace, going about doing good for you have a new heart that wants to please the Father.

Would it not be better to have the freedom to go jump up into the arms of God saying, "Abba Father" and not go saying I have kept your laws and need you to love me and take care of me?

So, this is my start of a new series of thoughts on the law and how we must get past legalism and operate in love and peace and joy and kindness and mercy and all manner of righteousness.

Your brother who operates in the Spirit of Jesus

Howard