

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LAW AND GRACE

The difference between the law and grace is that the law requires an outward restraint while grace requires an inward transformation.

God did not do away with the Law of Moses. He expects us to keep it otherwise why would He have given it. However, apart from grace and faith, we cannot keep the Law.

God gave His people the Laws of Moses or Torah after their release from the bondage of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 4:5 *"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess"*

Torah was a book of instruction given not to save them but to show them a way of life based upon the Covenant that God had made with them.

Exodus 19:5 *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people..."*

Jeremiah 7:23 *"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'*

The outward rules of the codes written on tables of stone produce death not life. Therefore, the Law serves only to reveal our needs. The list of "do" and "don't" has no power to meet them. The sign on the highway tells the motorist that the speed limit is 65 miles per hour. That is the law. If I am driving at the speed of 90 per hour, the sign reveals my need to slow down, but it is powerless to make me do it.

Romans 3:20 *"... by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" (Emphasis added).*

Romans 7:7 *"...I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*

The purpose of the Law was – and still is – that of teaching the people of God how to live **IN Christ**, for it is only **in** Christ that the Law can be fulfilled. In fact, in the Old Testament, it was the blood sacrifices, performed in faith that preserved the Israelites, not the law.

The principal function of the Law is to be a schoolmaster that leads to Christ and His grace.

Romans 10:4 " For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

(The word "end" is a translation of the Greek word "Telos", from "Tello" (to set out for a definite point or goal) and can be translated "the point aimed at", "the purpose", and "the conclusion of an act or state"). In other words, the Law shows man how utterly sinful he is and how incapable he is to fulfill its demands. At this point, he will realize that he needs a Savior and will put his faith in Jesus. (The Apostle Paul vividly describes the conflict of the sinful man, and the solution provided by God, in Romans 7 and 8).

Jesus – as the point aimed at by the Law and as the purpose for it - is the end of the Law. He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it.

Matt 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

The New Testament believer then, can fulfill the Law only IN CHRIST, by the grace that He gives, which is received through faith.

GRACE IS THE POWER THAT GOD GIVES FREELY SO THAT WE CAN LIVE A HOLY LIFE.

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age..."

In Christ we are no longer under the law, but under grace: *for the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ* (John 1:17).

Jesus fulfills the law **IN** us by changing us from the inside. The New Covenant makes this possible.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

In conclusion, God's grace, through our faith in the New Covenant promises, releases the power of the Holy Spirit within to obey the law and to walk in Covenant relationship with the Lord.

Laura Pedota

www.truthandlightministry.com