

SO, NOW WHAT DO I DO?**Lesson 3: Identifying Mixture****I. Understanding Mixture****A. Old Testament Principle***Deuteronomy 22:9-11*

“You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, or all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the increase of the vineyard will become defiled. ¹⁰ You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. ¹¹ You shall not wear a material mixed of wool and linen together.

1. Does God care about seeds and fabrics?*1 Corinthians 9:8-10*

*I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, “ You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.” **God is not concerned about oxen, is He?** ¹⁰ Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops.*

- Just as He was not concerned with the oxen in 1 Corinthians 9 but rather was showing the principle that those who plow should plow in hope, in the same way God is not concerned about mixing seeds, the ox and donkey working together, or mixing wool and linen. These things were written “for our sake”. We are not to mix the Old Covenant into the New Covenant. We should not allow mixture into our hearts and minds because it is harmful and deadly to us.

2. Jesus expressed a similar principle.*Matthew 9:16-17*

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. ¹⁷ Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

3. The new wine represents the New Covenant, the gospel we preach. It cannot be put into/mixed with the old wineskins of the Old Covenant/law/religion.*Hebrews 8:13*

In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first (the old) obsolete.

B. Mixture is teaching “another” gospel.*Galatians 1:6-7*

*I am amazed that you are so quickly **deserting Him** who called you by the grace of Christ, for a **different** gospel;⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ.*

C. “What the big deal?”

Teaching “another” gospel not only brings God’s people into a miserable state of existence, but it comes with a curse.

Galatians 1:8-9

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

II. What is the Gospel/New Covenant?

- A. The good news we preach is that because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have a New Covenant with God. The New Covenant Gospel is the good news that God is our God, that we are His children, that we are at peace with Him, that we know Him, that our sins are no longer a barrier between us and God, and that we are righteous as a gift.

Luke 22:20

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. 33"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Isaiah 54:9-11

"For this is like the days of Noah to Me,
When I swore that the waters of Noah
Would not flood the earth again;
So I have sworn
that I will not be angry with you
Nor will I rebuke you.

"For the mountains may be removed
and the hills may shake,
But My lovingkindness
will not be removed from you,
And My covenant of peace
will not be shaken,"

Says the LORD
who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 54:14-15

"In righteousness you will be established;
You will be far from oppression,

for you will not fear;

And from terror,

for it will not come near you.

¹⁵"If anyone fiercely assails you

it will not be from Me.

Whoever assails you

will fall because of you.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon formed against you shall
prosper,

And every tongue which rises against you
in judgment

You shall condemn.

This is the heritage
of the servants of the LORD,

And their righteousness is from Me,"

Says the LORD.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

III. Identifying Mixture

A. Mixture is adding anything to the gospel in order to be “right” with God.

1. Jesus plus anything equals nothing. Jesus plus nothing equals everything!
2. Mixture can be difficult to identify because it is mixed in with truth. So, someone will agree to the truth and not realize that they believe other things that neutralize the truth.

Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law (any requirement beyond grace), then Christ died in vain.

3. One of the tactics of mixture teaching is to tell us that the message of the gospel of the grace of God needs to be “balanced”. They say:

- We must balance grace with the law.
- We must balance grace with living correctly.
- We must balance grace with obeying God.
- We must balance grace with the “truth”.
- We must balance grace with self discipline.
- We must not be too EXTREME about grace. It must be balanced.

There is no balance to grace. Grace is EXTREME, extremely unbalanced in our favor. Grace and truth came through Jesus, (John 1:17). Truth is always on the side of grace because Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). To try to balance Jesus with religion or law or self discipline is like saying that we need to balance Jesus with Moses, which is unthinkable (Hebrews 3:3-6)!

B. It is also “another” gospel to negate the promises and accomplishments of the New Covenant.

1. Believers in Jesus Christ are righteous by faith in Him as a gracious gift from God (Rom. 5:17, 2 Cor. 5:21).

Mixture happens when it is said that we are only “positionally” righteous but *practically* far from it. Falsely concluding that we are not *actually* righteous, it is then taught that we need to “get right with God”. These false teachings will focus on what we need to do in order to be righteous, instead of focusing on what He did to make us righteous.

Philippians 3:9

And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

2. Believers are forgiven of all sin: past, present, and future (1 Jn. 1:7, Heb. 10:14).

Mixture happens when it is taught that we are only initially forgiven for past sins, but when we sin after salvation, God turns away until we repent and ask for forgiveness (get our sins “under the blood”).

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions

3. Another mixture message is that we get “blessed” the same way Israel did under the Old Covenant law (Deut. 28), which can be summed up as, “Do good, get blessed. Do bad, get cursed.” Under the New Covenant we are blessed based on Jesus’ acceptance by God and our blessing is undeserved and unmerited.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

4. **We are right with God by grace through faith, but many, agreeing that this is true, ADD that we must also live by and obey the Ten Commandments and other laws in order to be right with God.**

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

5. **Some agree that we are right with God initially, but afterwards we must practice spiritual disciplines in order to maintain or improve our relationship with God.**

Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

6. **Not all “Christian” music is Christian. Many songs include mixture. It will acknowledge that God loves you, but then suggest He is far off. It will give praise for something He has done, but in the next breath express despair.**

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

7. **Many church programs called discipleship, mentoring, and accountability partners often employ behavior modification instead of the pure gospel in order to bring about change. We aren’t changed as the world is changed. We are transformed by beholding Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

IV. **Mixture often occurs when we don’t understand where the Old Covenant ends and the New Covenant begins. All Scripture must be taken in context.**

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Amplified: *correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.*

A. The Old Testament ends and the New Testament begins at the death of Christ.

Hebrews 9:16-17

For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. ¹⁷ For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

1. Not everything said to God's people who were under the Old Covenant is applicable to us. For example, when Israel was breaking God's laws, God expressed His anger and told them that their sins had separated them from Him. Those who disobeyed God's laws were under a curse. However, we are not under the law or its curses. Our sins have been permanently forgiven and we are children of God. This was not true of anyone under the Old Covenant. So, it is mixture to apply the manner in which God related to those under the law as how He relates to those under grace.

2. In the same way, we cannot use all Psalms and Proverbs to formulate our beliefs. We have to consider that we have under the New Covenant what they could only imagine and long to have. Jesus has promised to never leave us or forsake us, so it mixture to ask God, for example, to create in us a clean heart, or to not take His Holy Spirit from us (Psalm 51).

B. Jesus was born under the Law and ministered almost exclusively to the Jews. To rightly divide the word of God, we must take this fact into consideration when reading His words.

EXAMPLES OF MIXTURE

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT	MIXTURE
<p>Isaiah 59:2 <i>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.</i></p>	<p>Romans 4:7-8 <i>Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.</i></p>	<p>Jesus forgave all my sins and I have a relationship with Him, but when I sin, I am separated from Him again and need to be forgiven again in order to have our relationship restored and have him face me again.</p>
<p>Psalms 51:11 <i>Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me</i></p>	<p>Hebrews 13:5 <i>I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.</i></p>	<p>If I am doing my best to please God and constantly inviting His presence to be with me and don't have any unconfessed sins, then God is with me.</p>
<p>Exodus 20:20 <i>And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.</i></p>	<p>Romans 8:15 <i>For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"</i></p>	<p>We are children of God, but we walk afraid of His wrath or judgment coming on us for falling short.</p>

V. Mixture is a distortion of the gospel and a desertion of Christ robbing Him of His accomplishments by mixing in our own, making us miserable.

Galatians 1:6-7

*I am amazed that you are so quickly **deserting Him** who called you by the **grace of Christ**, for a **different** gospel;⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are **disturbing** you and want to **distort** the **gospel of Christ**.*

A. When the gospel is distorted/perverted, we are troubled/disturbed.

Metastrepho: "to transform into something of an opposite character"-Vines

Meta: Signifying a change. Strepho: to distort, twist, pervert.

1. *Many Christians after a couple years of faith begin to be troubled. Most of them don't know why. That joy they once knew begins to fade, but they are told this is normal. It isn't. Only a return to the true gospel of grace and forsaking "another" will yield the result of returning to one's first love and joy.*
2. *Many believers today are accustomed to mixture and its effects.*

2 Corinthians 11:20 Amplified

For you endure it if a man assumes control of your souls and makes slaves of you, or devours [your substance, spends your money] and preys upon you, or deceives and takes advantage of you, or is arrogant and puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.

3. **Mixture nullifies God's grace.**

Galatians 2:21 Amplified

[Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]

4. **Mixture severs us from Christ causing us to fall from grace.**

Galatians 5:4

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

VI. Believing mixture opens us to deception.

Galatians 3:1-3 Amplified

O YOU poor and silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and senseless Galatians! Who has fascinated or bewitched or cast a spell over you, unto whom--right before your very eyes-- Jesus Christ (the Messiah) was openly and graphically set forth and portrayed as crucified?² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the [Holy] Spirit as the result of obeying the Law and doing its works, or was it by hearing [the message of the Gospel] and believing [it]? [Was it from observing a law of rituals or from a message of faith?]³ Are you so foolish and so senseless and so silly? Having begun [your new life spiritually] with the [Holy] Spirit, are you now reaching perfection [by dependence] on the flesh?

- A. Just as a little poison added to fresh spring water will make you sick, so a little mixture will make you miserable.

Galatians 5:1-6

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. 7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- B. While there are teachers who deliberately teach mixture, many teachers are unaware they are doing so. They believe wholeheartedly what they are saying. This can cause us to accept mixture. We need to listen to what is SAID and not be led astray by sincerity or passion. It is entirely possible to be sincere and yet sincerely wrong. Poison will kill you no matter who gives it to you. So listen carefully to what you are taught. Learn to identify mixture and reject it, so that you do not drift away from the true gospel.

Hebrews 2:1-3

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

- C. Sometimes people begin to understand the true gospel, but when persecution arises because of the word/the gospel they will return to mixture so as not to rock the boat.

Mark 4:16-17

In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷ and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

- D. Others are so accustomed to mixture teachings. So, even though they started to understand the truth they return to mixture because it's more comfortable or so they can "be in unity" with family and friends.

Luke 5:37-39

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. 38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'

1. **One of the main problems with mixture is that a small amount of it can impact our entire lives, and it can cause us to drift away from the beauty of the New Covenant. If we drink in the mixture of old/new religion, it can cause us to "settle" for the comfort of the religion of self effort and striving to be "right" with God and say "I guess it doesn't get any better than this, I guess the old is good enough".**

THE OLD WINE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT IS OBSOLETE!

MIXTURE IS A DISTORTION OF THE TRUE GOSPEL AND A DESERTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

Galatians 1:6-7

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;⁷ which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

2 Peter 3:14-16

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things (new heaven and new earth), be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.