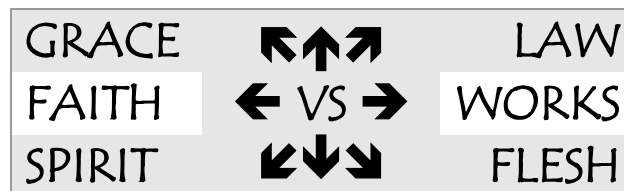


Are you so foolish
Having begun by the Spirit
Are you now being made perfect by the flesh?
Galatians 3:3

When we come to Jesus we realize that Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. However, we are very efficient at quickly turning the relationship we received by grace through faith back into a religion by making the relationship contingent on what we do or don't do.

Keep this in mind:

The words **GRACE—FAITH—SPIRIT** and **LAW—WORKS—FLESH** are closely associated and used nearly interchangeably.



A life of God's grace is received by faith in Jesus Christ and lived out in the Spirit.

A life under the law is based on our works and lived out in the flesh.

COMBINING OR MIXING THE ABOVE STATEMENTS RESULTS IN CONFUSION, FRUSTRATION, MISERY, AND SEVERANCE.

I There is no such thing as a “balance” of Grace and Law.

A Because we are under grace, not the law, sin is no longer our master.
Romans 6:14

*For sin shall not be master over you, for you are **not** under law but under **grace**.*

B We are under grace, and therefore, the GRACE of God, not the law, instructs us.

Titus 2:11-13

*For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,*

*¹² **instructing us** to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, to live righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

1 Because we are his righteousness we live righteously.

⇒ We are NOT made righteous by living righteously.

2 Because we are partakers of the divine nature we live godly.

⇒ We do NOT become partakers of the divine nature by living godly.

3 Because we are freed from sin we are free from all lawless deeds.

⇒ We are NOT freed from sin by not sinning.

4 Because we are purified we are zealous for good deeds.

⇒ We are NOT purified by doing good deeds.

C Paul’s appeals in the Epistles for the believers to live righteously are based on what Jesus had done already in their lives.

Colossian 3:1-3

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

<p>The works of the flesh come as a result of living under the law.</p>	<p>The fruit of the Spirit comes from living under God’s grace.</p>
<p><i>Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these</i></p>	<p><i>Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control</i></p>

D When we get this backwards, the cross loses its purpose. This is what happened to the Galatians.

Galatians 2:15-21

Nevertheless knowing that a man is **not** justified by the works of the Law but through **faith** in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and **not** by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law **no** flesh will be justified. ¹⁷"But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! ¹⁸"For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹"For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹"**I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.**"

E We **MUST** avoid constantly the tendency to add something to grace. Grace + Works = MIXTURE = BONDAGE*CONFUSION*MISERY*DISGRACE
Galatians 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

A little "law" or legalism or self-imposed rules to be acceptable to God can infiltrate our entire lives and cause mental and spiritual confusion.

II The Superiority of the Spirit over the Flesh

A The Not-So-Subtle Enemy of the Flesh

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

Romans 8:5-9

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ **However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.**

B The flesh and sin are empowered by the law and/or self-imposed legalisms. Coming back under law, puts us back in bondage.

Romans 7:9-11

I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; ¹⁰and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; ¹¹for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

- 1 Paul was born a Jew and never apart from the Law before conversion.
- 2 Before conversion, Paul was dead. To say he was alive means he is referring to a time after His conversion. He was alive in Christ.
- 3 When the commandment came, sin became alive (G: revived). The law gives life to sin. Paul was dead to sin, but when he got back under the law, sin came back to life...thus the confusion in Romans 7.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

III Justified and Empowered by Faith Not Works

A The Work of God is to believe on Jesus Christ.

John 6:29

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

B The Spirit (grace/faith) vs. the works (law/flesh)

Romans 3:20

By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Romans 11:6

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

C Created for good works, not saved, justified by them

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

2 Timothy 1:9-11 *Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.*

D Working of miracles by faith not works of the law

Galatians 3:2-5 *This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*

IV Falling from Grace

Galatians 5:3-4

And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. ⁴You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

A How do we become severed from God's grace? It is when we seek to be justified (made righteous) before Him by fulfilling the law and additional religious expectations.

- 1 The Don'ts
- 2 The Do's

B When we forsake the gift of righteousness and seek our own, we nullify God's grace.

Galatians 2:21

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

C When we seek to be made righteous by the law, we become severed from Christ and 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.

V We need to NEVER teach "another" gospel.

Galatians 1:6-9

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. ⁸ 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!¹ 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!

**Understanding the above verses,
we need to answer these two important questions:**

- 1) What is the gospel Paul preached?
- 2) Am I preaching it?

¹ *Anathema an-ath'-em-ah: a (religious) ban or (concretely) excommunicated (thing or person): - accursed, anathema, curse.*