

LIVING BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH NOT LAW

Cathy Hildebrand, Author of: Are We Preaching “Another” Gospel?

1. THE OLD COVENANT IS OBSOLETE

Hebrews 8:8-9,13

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt...¹³ In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first (the Old Covenant) OBSOLETE. Now what is becoming OBSOLETE and growing old is ready to vanish away.

2. THE 10 COMMANDMENTS ARE THE OLD COVENANT

Exodus 34:28

So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 4:13

So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

3. WHAT DID PAUL AND OTHERS MEAN BY “LAW”?

- Paul meant the entire law.

2 Corinthians 3:7-8

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

Galatians 5:1-3

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.

- The Judaizers and the Jerusalem Council meant the entire law.

Acts 15:4-5

And when they had come to Jerusalem, they (Paul and Barnabas) were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them (among the Gentiles).⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

- FOR EXAMPLE

Galatians 2:19-21

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me.²¹ I do not set aside (nullify) the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.

*Did
Christ
DIE
in vain?*

4. WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW

- We died to the law.

Romans 7:4-6

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.⁶ But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

- We are no longer under a tutor!

Galatians 3:21-25

Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

- We are under GRACE NOT law.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

5. THE LAW STRENGTHENS SIN: Fall #1

1 Corinthians 15:56

The strength (dunamis-power) of sin is the law.

Romans 7:5-6

For when we were in the flesh (unsaved, not of the Spirit), the passions of sins, which were by the law, worked in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. ⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter (the law).

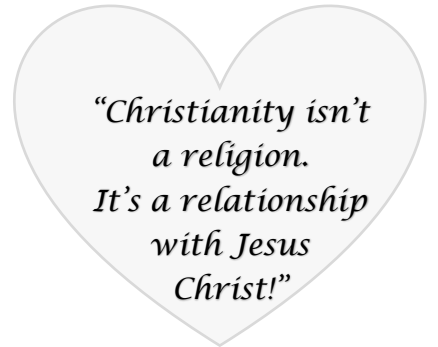
Galatians 5:4

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified (made right before God) by law; you have fallen from grace.

6. ALL THAT WE DO IS BECAUSE OF WHAT HE'S DONE IN US!

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



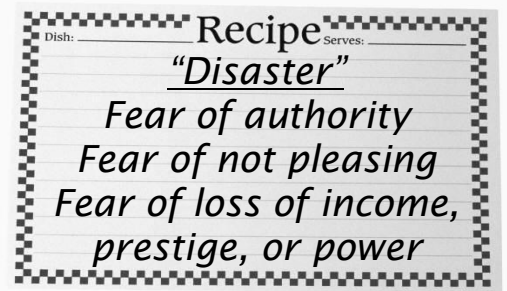
7. FALL FROM GRACE #2: Only 4 years later



- ✦ Why am I MISERABLE?
- ✦ Why do I feel justified before God when I read my Bible and pray, and when I don't, I don't?
- ✦ Why don't I want my own father to get saved and be as miserable as I am?
- ✦ Do I really think that hell would be better than this misery?



Don't rock the boat!
Don't give anyone a bad impression!
Be a pillar not a problem!
Ignore the symptoms!
Go with the flow! Walk in unity!
Walk by faith not by sight!



→NINE MORE L-O-N-G YEARS LATER←



- ✦ Why do You seem far away?
- ✦ Why can't I feel Your love?
- ✦ Why aren't You using me?



It's impossible to know what is wrong with you if your perceived solution to your problem is actually the source of what is wrong with you.

Galatians 5:4 (MOUNCE)
You have cut yourself off from Christ you who are trying to be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

Galatians 3:3

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

My 2nd Grace Awakening: Just as I am...by grace through faith alone

8. JUSTIFIED (MADE RIGHTEOUS) BY FAITH NOT WORKS

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified (made right before God, made righteous) 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.

Okay. I get it. I am right before God because I believe in Jesus.

So, NOW What Do I Do?

✦ LIVE ✦ by Grace through Faith NOT Law

Colossians 2: 6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord (by grace through faith), so walk in Him (by grace through faith), ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith (the gospel), as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

- I. **REORIENTATION:** Many of us have spent most of our Christian life living under a mixture of law verses grace. Accept that it will take some time to get reoriented.
- II. **THE CHOPPING BLOCK:** Place EVERYTHING before Him. Ask Him to show you if there is anything you currently believe that is not true. Place everything there for His loving examination. *Knowing the truth set you free.
Believing a lie brought bondage.
Rediscovering the truth will set you free again.*
- III. **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT “THE GOSPEL”:** The Good News is for believers, too. DISCOVER the unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8).
 - ✦ Accomplishments of the cross
 - ✦ Who you are in Him
 - ✦ His “better” New Covenant Promises
- IV. **LEARN OF GOD’S GREAT LOVE FOR YOU.**

John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- V. **DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS.**

Luke 5:38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.
- VI. **RID YOURSELF FOREVER OF THESE GRACE NULIFIERS: Ifs, Ands, Buts**

2 Corinthians 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are YES; therefore also through Him is our AMEN to the glory of God through us.
- VII. **ALLOW GRACE TO TEACH YOU (NOT LAW)**

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- VIII. **LET JESUS TRANSFORM YOU (NOT FORMULA).**

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.
Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you (He) will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Thessalonians 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.
- IX. **KNOW THAT YOU ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT (NOT LAWS or LISTS)**

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. This means that you can trust that the Spirit of God will show you what good works He has called you to walk in. All of those who believe in Jesus have a calling. We simply do what He leads us to do.
- X. **FOLLOW CHRIST’S NEW COVENANT COMMANDMENTS.**

1 John 3:22-23 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And THIS is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

✦ Can the Christian life really be this easy? Believe in Jesus and love each other? Yes! ✦