

Title: The New Creation Series – Session 9: Law and Grace

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Introduction

In this teaching session, we will talk about:

- The differences between being under the Law and being under Grace
- Why and how the new creation is no longer under the Law
- The wrong and right motivations for holiness under Grace.

Under Law vs. Under Grace

- In this section we will compare what it meant for the people of Israel to be under the Law and what it means for the born-again believers in Christ to be under Grace, using the following 4 criterias (characteristics): expectation, means, motivation, and absolution.
- Under the LAW:
 - EXPECTATION: Fulfill the moral Law of God (holiness is a condition) in order to be righteous (if... then).
 - MEANS: Human ability sabotaged by the sin nature.
 - MOTIVATION: Fear of curse, love for blessings or love for God, for His ways and laws.
 - ABSOLUTION: Repeated sacrifices of animals.
- Under GRACE:
 - EXPECTATION: Fulfill the extended moral Law of God (Matthew 5), outside and inside, because Christians are already righteous inside (holiness is an effect or result).
 - MEANS: Faith in the Grace power of God to work in Christians, to influence their free choices, their wills, their desires, and their circumstances, towards holiness through the righteous nature inside.
 - MOTIVATION: Fear of losing salvation and of going to hell, fear of curse, love for blessings, love for power, or love for God, for His ways and laws.
 - ABSOLUTION: The once and for all sacrifice of Jesus.

No Longer Under The Law

Romans 7:1-4 (NASB)

¹Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that **the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?**

²For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

³So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

⁴Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law** through the body of Christ, **so that you might be joined to another**, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

- A marriage covenant is valid until one of the partners dies without breaking it. If the wife goes to another man while she is still married and her husband is alive, she is an adulteress.
- The human race (through the people of Israel) entered a covenant of works with God and was married to the Law. The Law started with one simple command in the garden of Eden, which Adam broke and became

an adulterer. Then the Law was expanded during Moses to the 10 commandments and the other ceremonial laws. Then Jesus expanded it even more in Matthew 5 to the spirit of Law.

- Jesus entered the same covenant with God as the human race, under the Law (married with the Law), fulfilled all the Law all His life, and then died on the cross. The moment He died, His marriage with the Law ended in a correct and righteous way (and the Christians' marriage with the Law ended as well, since they were in Him), so that He (and them) could be married with the Grace afterwards. That is why Christians are no longer under the Law or under the obligation to fulfill it. Christians have been married to Christ, who is Himself Grace.

Wrong Motivations for Holiness

- Anything people do in life is either out of FEAR or out of LOVE (pleasure) for something or someone.
- Running from something that people fear does not hold neither produces a change for the long-term, but running towards something that they love lasts.

1. The Fear of Losing Salvation and Going to Hell

- Receiving the eternal free gift of no condemnation forever and of salvation's security is one of the secrets for holiness and sanctification that the devil tries to keep hidden from the children of God. The gift and freedom of no condemnation will produce in believers holiness as a result. In John 8:10-12, Jesus offered first the gift of no condemnation to the woman caught in adultery, then He told her to go and sin no more.
- The example of a circus: In a circus, which acrobat on a wire will perform better and try more new things? The one who has the ground below him and at first mistake he is dead? Or the one who has a mattress underneath and who knows that even if he makes a mistake, he is safe and can try again?
- The life of a Christian is now like a piece of WHITE PAPER on which every time a sin tries to be written, it automatically disappears, it's erased.
- God wants believers to be holy because of their love for Him and not because of the fear of hell. This is how the rest of world lives and is moral, because of the fear of the law, but that's not how Christians should live. Salvation from hell is just the basic, the beginning of the Journey. God brought believers out of darkness and hell, with the purpose to bring them into something else.

Deuteronomy 6:22-23 (NASB)

²² 'Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household;

²³ He brought us out from there **in order to bring us in**, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.'

- God's purpose (or reason, focus) with the people of Israel in bringing them out of Egypt was to bring them INTO something else. The deliverance FROM Egypt was just a necessary (required) step for the IN. The IN was conditioned on the FROM. Most Christians today celebrate the fact that they are free in Christ, but just that is not what Jesus wants. God did not want the people of Israel to just rejoice after they crossed the Red Sea and then remain there.
- Notice that the text does not say "He brought us out AND He brought us in", but it does say "He brought us out, IN ORDER to bring us in". The GOAL is the IN. The final purpose is "to give us the land".
- Most Christians are JUST OUT and the problem with this situation is that if they are JUST OUT, whatever they have got out of, STILL PULLS THEM. The people of Israel were tempted and ready to return to Egypt

multiple times when they did not see anything but desert and hardships. Egypt still got a hold of them, because they did not taste yet the IN.

- What is the promised land for the Christian? What is Canaan? Is it a place on earth now or is it the new heaven and the new earth at the end of times?
- Canaan is not the future life or the new heaven and the new earth. It is rather something for now, it is something real now. In the new heaven and the new earth there won't be giants to defeat and obstacles. So Canaan it is a place on earth. It is a spiritual (invisible) place of rest, victory, holiness, health, prosperity, and life in abundance. That is the true purpose of Christianity and not just salvation from hell. This is what we are going to talk in the next session – the inheritance of the new creation here on earth.

2. The Fear of Curses

- This is the fear of not being blessed or of losing the blessings if believers are not holy enough and pleasing to God.
- Under the Law, this fear of curse as motivation was somehow justified, because of Deuteronomy 28. They would have really experienced curse if they did not obey the Law.
- That is not true under Grace. Believers will never experience curse just because they have not been holy enough. They can live under curse just because of their lack of knowledge and renewal of the mind. The blessings of Christians do not depend on their holiness AT ALL, but completely on Christ's holiness.

Galatians 3:13 (NASB)

¹³ Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the Law**, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—

- Christ redeemed believers from all the curses in Deuteronomy 28, meaning that He paid the penalty of every breach of the Law for them and in them.

Matthew 5:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish **but to fulfill**.
¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- He did not only redeem believers, but He also fulfilled the whole Law, all the Deuteronomy 28 conditions for them and in them. Believers are entitled now only to blessings, without doing anything good or bad, and they maintain that right even when they still sin.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NASB)

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.

- What promises? The ones in Deuteronomy 28 and not only: health, prosperity, blessing, power, victory, and success.

3. The Love (Desire) for Blessings

- Under Law, the more people obeyed the Law, the more blessed they were.

- Under Grace, being more holy will not bring believers more blessings. They cannot be more blessed than they are already.

Romans 8:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

- Believers are joint heirs with Christ. Everything that Christ has and is, they also have and they also are.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ So then let no one boast in men. For **all things belong to you**,
²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; **all things belong to you**,
²³ and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

- All things belong to the believers, the world, life, death, the present, and the future.

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

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.

- Every spiritual blessing has been given to the believers. Those spiritual blessings include all the physical and material blessings, as we will see in the following sessions. The "spiritual" refers to the means of obtaining the blessings and not to the substance of the blessings.

2 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

³ seeing that His divine power **has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- God has already given to the believers everything pertaining to life and godliness.

4. The Love (Desire) for the Power of God

- Under Law, the more people obeyed the Law, the more power and anointing of God they attracted.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NASB)

⁸ **if** My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, **then I will hear** from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- The above verse from Chronicles is an example of a verse from the Old Testament that does not apply to the new creation. God hears the Christians even when they do wicked things, and He forgave all their sins already when they came into Christ. There is no need anymore for them to humble themselves, and pray, and seek His face, in order to receive forgiveness of sins.

- Another example is Achan in Joshua 7. The whole people of Israel was defeated in battle against the city of Ai and it was slowed down because of Achan's sin. That would not happen in the New Testament anymore. The Christian can have victory through faith even when he sinned.
- Another clear difference between the Old Testament (condition: if...then) and the New Testament (no ifs) can be noticed in the following 2 passages:

Exodus 19:5-6 (NASB)

⁵ 'Now then, **if you will** indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **then you shall be** My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;
⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

⁹ But **you are** A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, **so that you may proclaim** the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- Under Grace, having more power and anointing does not depend on believers' holiness AT ALL, but on faith alone.

Galatians 3:5 (NASB)

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?**

- The Spirit is provided and miracles are worked by hearing with faith alone.

John 3:34 (NASB)

³⁴ "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit **without measure**.

John 20:21 (NASB)

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; **as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

- The new creation already has all the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit without measure. In John 3:34, the Bible indeed talks about Jesus as the sent one to speak the words of God and the one having the Spirit without measure. However, in John 20:21, Jesus says that in exactly the same way the Father sent Him (meaning having the Spirit without measure), He sent the believers.

Mark 16:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ "These signs will accompany **those who have believed**: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;
¹⁸ they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- As seen in the passage from Mark 16 above, the only condition for miracles is faith.

Acts 3:12 (NASB)

¹² But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, **as if by our own power or piety** we had made him walk?"

Acts 3:16 (NASB)

³⁴ "And **on the basis of faith in His name**, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and **the faith which comes through Him** has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

- According to Acts 3:12, 16, healing comes not based on piety, but based on faith.
- From God's point of view, walking in holiness will never be a condition (requirement or prerequisite) for believers to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders in the New Testament. Faith alone is the condition. However, from a human perspective, habitual sinning and lack of holiness will slow down faith from increasing. The reason is the following: when a believer sins, automatically in his mind will see himself and the Holy God in opposite camps because of conscience. Guilt will mentally create a gap between the believer and the loving God. The believer will find it difficult to trust God in the same measure as before until things are reconciled. So sin will always weaken conviction and faith in God. Indirectly, the power of the Holy Spirit will not be manifested at the same level due to the weakening of faith. On the other hand, holiness and consistent victory over sin in the daily life will enhance faith and create a context in which faith will flourish and increase in intensity and strength.

The Right Motivation for Holiness

- The right motivation for holiness is love for God and His ways.
- The love for God, for His ways, and for the neighbour is the fulfillment of the Law.

Romans 5:5 (NASB)

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out within our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- The Love of God or for God has already been poured out in the hearts of the believers.

Galatians 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, **but faith working through love**.

- Many Christians have deduced from the above verse that they have to love in order to have faith. However, that is not true. First of all, if that were true, having love as a condition for faith is a very ambiguous condition which actually forfeits faith. How can a Christians measure their level of love to know their level of faith? How much love is needed for faith to work? Every time Christians will be asked to pray for others for miracles, they will inevitably ask themselves if they had enough love and respectively enough faith to even attempt such a prayer. Clearly, they will never feel that they loved enough or that they had enough faith, and that in itself will forfeit faith completely because of their mind. In that state of mind, even if they pray for someone it will not yield any results. Also, for many believers feeling that they loved enough or had enough faith would be a fake warning to them that they are not humble enough and that

they are proud. In this way, they confuse confidence and faith (in the word that should result in boldness to pray) with pride. And because of that, again their faith and prayer will not yield any results.

- Second, the verse from Galatians doesn't say that believers cannot have faith without love, but that faith without love, even if it's working and yielding results, it will not count in Christ as a work of righteousness worthy of reward.

1 Corinthians 13:2 (NASB)

² If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; **and if I have all faith**, so as to remove mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing**.

- 1 Corinthians 13:2 says clearly that believers can have all faith, so as to move mountains without love. However, as Galatians 5:6 showed, a great faith yielding even in great signs and wonders without love is counted as nothing before Christ.
- Dead works are works without faith or works of faith without love. Believers will not be rewarded for any of those, period.

1 John 4:16-19 (NASB)

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.

¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

¹⁸ **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

¹⁹ **We love, because He first loved us.**

- According to 1 John 4:16-19, love and fear cannot coexist. If you fear, you don't love. If you love, then you don't fear. If you are holy out of fear, it cannot be out of love. If you are holy out of love, then it cannot be out of fear, and that is what lasts on the long term. Love and fear cancel each other.
- We love because He first loved us. Our ability to love Him lies on grasping and meditating on how much He loved us. When you know that He loves you, that He is always for you and on your side, then you become free to love Him more out of your heart. That is one of the purposes of this series, to realize how much God loves us.

Conclusion

- The EXPECTATION and the way of ABSOLUTION are similar on both sides (under Law and under Grace) at different levels, but what makes the difference between the two is the right MEANS applied with the right MOTIVATION.
- Are Christians under the LAW? From the point of view of EXPECTATION and ABSOLUTION (a sacrifice is needed), but not as MEANS and MOTIVATION.
- Are believers under any constraints or fears to perform works of righteousness in reality? No. Only the wrong beliefs and the strongholds of their mind put constraints and threats over them.
- Why do believers walk in holiness? Because of love, and out of love for God.
- How do believers walk in holiness? By Grace through faith.
- What is the importance of holiness? Holiness is for God's pleasure, for rewards at the end, and for making faith increase faster while we are on earth.

Memory Verses

Romans 8:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Galatians 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

If you have any questions from the Bible or from this teaching session, or you have a personal problem (in finances, in marriage, with children, with addictions, or with a sickness in your body, etc.) for which you need prayer, please don't hesitate to contact us at contact@eduardserediuc.org or directly from the website from the Contact section -> General Inquiry form. My wife and I will take the time to answer you and pray for you. May God bless you!