

5 Fast Facts—Law vs Grace

Subject: Roles of Law & Grace in the life of a Christian

Context: Some Christians believe “Law keeping” provides salvation while others hold Law keeping is unimportant because only grace is needed for salvation.

1. Psalms 119:172 - ... all Your commandments *are* righteousness.

God’s Law is wonderful and good and part of God’s **covenants** with mankind (including the New Covenant where His law is written in our hearts - Jer 31:33)

2. There are **two roles of the Law** – the “**educative**” role shows us how God wants us to live. The “**judicial**” role of the law convicts us as being lawbreakers, worthy of death, & **NEEDING** Grace – God’s pardon that is provided by Christ’s sacrifice to cover our sins. **Grace** provides Salvation – Law keeping does not provide (earn) salvation – “Granting Salvation” is not a purpose of the law.

Negative statements of the Law in scripture, are **NOT** saying the law is bad or evil, but instead saying that the Law is not effective for salvation. We **NEED** both Law & Grace. The Law shows us how to live & identifies our sins ... and Grace provides us forgiveness of our sins and the gift of Eternal life.

3. Gal 3:2 ... Received you the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

As described in point 2, The **law** does not provide salvation. (It shows we are sinners – needing forgiveness) Faith in Christ’s sacrifice provides the favour & forgiveness of God (**Grace**)

4. Proper scriptural understanding is not “Law vs Grace” ... but “Law & Grace”
An old saying: “The Law **tells** what Grace **covers**”

5. Most Christians agree on the role of **Grace**

Eph 2:8 For by **grace** you have been **saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God

The “point of difference” is **the law**. Some (condemning “legalism”) teach that **since** the law is not the mechanism for salvation, it is unimportant and keeping God’s law is not required of Christians. Iniquity (lawlessness) is the opposite of God and is foolish since there are so many scriptures that praise the wisdom of God’s law – as it teaches us both How to Love God and How to love our fellowman.

1Jn 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Source of some ideas:

1. Bronson James – Armor of God – “Law vs Grace”
2. Vance Stinson concurring with the Westminster Confession Chapter XIX – Law of God
3. Ed Szalankiewicz - Book of Galatians A Commentary
4. Bronson James – Armor of God – “Law vs Grace”
5. Summary