

LIVING UNDER GRACE

Romans 6:14-18

Introduction:

- The laws in our country
 1. One year _____ new laws went into effect.
 2. With so many laws, our legal system has been abused.
 - a. Some have escaped punishment due to a t_____
 - b. Some are wrongly convicted – not based on evidence, but what a jury b_____
 - c. Some innocent people plead to a l_____ charge because they fear conviction.
 - d. Some use the law to take a_____ of others.
- Religious law - Original intent was to help people o_____ God
 1. In ancient days
 - a. Jesus was condemned for doing g_____ on a Sabbath day (healing – Lk 6:6-11);
 - b. His disciples were criticized for not f_____ as a spiritual discipline (Matt 9:14)
 2. In modern days - Man-made standards have become the measure of s_____
- Are Christians under law or grace?
 1. Some say that we must have b_____
 2. The Bible says that we are under grace, not law – but what does that mean in my everyday life? How can I truly live under grace in a practical way?

It Always Means Freedom From Rules (14)

- What really governs your life?
 1. Grace?
 - a. Grace means a f_____ gift (undeserved– Eph 2:8,9)
 - b. The free gift is eternal l_____ (Rom 6:23)
 - c. Eternal life is to personally k_____ God and His Son Jesus (Jn 17:3; Matt 7:22,23)
 2. Rules?
 - a. The Law of Moses was made up of d_____ laws (e.g. Lev 11), ceremonial laws (e.g. Lev 11:40), s_____ laws (e.g. Lev 1); civil laws (e.g. Lev 20:9,10), and m_____ laws (e.g. Ex 20)
 - 1) The Law of Moses was the O_____ Covenant
 - 2) Jesus fulfilled the Law and put into effect a N_____ Covenant by His blood (Lk 22:20; Jer 31:31-34)
 - 3) The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant o_____ (Heb 8:13)
 - b. Traditional religious laws
 - 1) Ridiculous laws of Jesus' day – no spitting on the ground on the Sabbath; no looking in a mirror on the Sabbath day, no walking over a certain distance.
 - 2) Ridiculous laws of modern day - easier to see ancient errors than modern ones (no card playing, going to theaters, dress codes)
- Spirituality or holiness can never come through rules, but through g_____ (your relationship with Jesus)

However, just because Christians are not under rules, does not mean that they can violate all rules!

It Never Means Freedom to Sin Occasionally (15,16)

- Verse 15 does not mean the same things as verse 1
 1. Verse 1 refers to using grace as a l_____ to sin (*continuing in sin* – Greek present tense which emphasizes ongoing activity, a lifestyle, a habit of life)
 2. Verse 15 refers to an instance of sin (Greek aorist tense) – using grace as an excuse for o_____ sin
 - a. Is playing euchre okay? – what if I neglect my spouse in playing euchre?
 - b. Is there a dress code for church? – what if my dress advertises my sexuality, causing others to stumble?
- Verse 16 sets o_____ in contrast to sin

1. Sin as master always leads to d_____
2. Obedience to God as master always leads to doing r_____)

●The question we must ask is: “What does God want me to do or not do?”

It Always Results in Obedience to God (17,18)

●Life up to initially coming to Christ (17a,18)

1. We were s_____ to sin – we were unable to glorify God no matter how much “good” we did
2. “Th_____ to God” (it was His act of grace) – we were freed from sin and began our journey of obedience.

●Acts of obedience

1. Are always from the h_____ - not “I have to” but “I want to” obey God
2. Look at your “religious” deeds – are they a “have to” or a “want to” (e.g. giving – we are not under the rule of the tithe, which was part of the Old Covenant)
 - a. The “I’ll drop in the plate whatever” giver – is this reflecting grace or a self-made rule?
 - b. The “above the tithe” giver (*I’ll give 10.1% and I will give no more*) – what if there is a pressing need and you have the means to meet it?
 - c. The low-income giver (*I wish I could give more but I cannot*) – consider replacing those chips with popcorn!
 - d. We must all look at our lifestyle and ask “Does my financial stewardship reflect grace, my relationship with God?”

●Object of Obedience

1. The form of teaching to which they were committed - was Jesus’ t_____ (Matt 28:20)
2. Jesus did not teach rules but p_____, which takes maturity to apply (following a rule does not take maturity)
 - a. Love God with your w_____ heart (Matt 22:37) – that takes maturity
 - b. Let your light shine in such a way that people will g_____ God, not you (Matt 5:16) – that takes maturity
 - c. Make God’s k_____ (the things of God) your first priority (Matt 6:33) – that takes maturity

Conclusion:

●Objection – grace is just another rule

●Answer

1. Rules are external but grace is in_____
2. Rules may change outward behavior, but grace changes us on the inside
3. We have the Holy Spirit l_____ in us who will impress us as to what is glorifying to God. Are you listening?