



# What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together (13)

Grace and Law (2)

Our 2026  
Theme

# Introduction

- Today we continue our theme for 2026, “What God has (and has not) joined together”. This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**.
- Last week we addressed: Grace and Law. We focused on God’s grace being the prime factor in our salvation. We also noted that the gospel IS a product of God’s grace that we are EXPECTED to follow – it matters.
- Today, we will continue to examine God’s grace and law by focusing on law. We will be discussing some challenging passages.

# The problem stated

- There are passages that make a distinction between God's grace and law:
- **Romans 6:14** – "...you are not under law but under grace."
- **Romans 11:6** - *And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*
- **Galatians 2:16** – *knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...*
- **Galatians 3:11** – *but that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith*
- **Galatians 5:4** – *...you who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace.*

# The problem stated

- There are passages that make a distinction between God's grace and law:
- Does this mean "law" is not necessary?  
Does this mean all we need is the grace of God (and perhaps "faith only")?  
Does grace contradict all law?

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – is a rule or system of rules recognized by an entity (country, municipality, organization, etc.) that regulates and enforces conduct. It is enforced by the authority of that entity.
- The term “law” in scripture can refer to different things. To understand what law is being considered we must view its context.
- There are civil laws – **Genesis 47:26** – Joseph made a law in Egypt. NOTE – many of the laws of Moses (Israel) were civil (though it was to be a theocracy) – e.g. **Num. 15:16** – one law for the native born and the stranger.  
**Leviticus 13 & 14** – laws concerning leprosy.

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – different types of laws
- The law of sin – **Romans 7:22-25, 8:2** (as opposed to the law of God). NOTE: This expression includes how God's law identifies sin (**Rom. 7:7, 3:20**, etc.) through His word. But clearly, this is a "law" we are to seek to not be bound by.  
Transgressing law – **1 John 3:4** – *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*  
Means one is acting without law (i.e., violating the law). WHEN we sin, we are violating God's laws (**cf. vs. 8-9**)
- The law of works – **Romans 3:27, 9:32** – boasting is excluded by this (**cf. Ephesians 2:8-9**). This is meritorious law (or works).  
The LOM was an example of this type of law.

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – different types of laws
- The law of Moses – **Acts 13:38-39, 15:5** – Paul preaching to Jews in Antioch of Pisidia (Asia minor). Paul is contrasting the law of Jesus with that of Moses. Later he confronts Judaizing teachers. NOTE: Often when contrasting law and grace, the LOM is the primary focus or example.
- The law of Christ (or God) – there is a law that He gives us to follow.

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – The Law we are under – described:
- The law of faith – **Romans 3:27** – *Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but **by the law of faith.***  
NOTE: Paul distinguishes the type of law that precludes boasting. We obey BECAUSE we believe!
- The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus – **Romans 8:2** - *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – The Law we are under – described:
- The law of God – **Romans 8:7** – *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*  
To live worldly is to live contrary to God's law for us – by the law of sin.  
NOTE: Does this imply we have something to do?
- Under law toward Christ – **1 Corinthians 9:21** - *to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, **but under law toward Christ**), that I might win those who are without law;*  
NOTE: Paul observes that following law toward Christ is a certain standard of conduct.  
**Cf. Galatians 6:2** – fulfill the law of Christ

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – The Law we are under – described:
- The Perfect law of liberty – **James 1:25** – *But he who **looks into** the perfect law of liberty and **continues in it**, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*  
This is a law we are to continue in. Note **vs. 22-25**
- The Royal law – **James 2:8** - *If you really **fulfill** the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;*  
It is a law to be "fulfilled" implying action.

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – The Law we are under – described:
- A law shall go forth – **Isaiah 2:2-4** - ... *For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* **Cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Note: The prophets foretold of a new kingdom (& law – a quality of a kingdom) that would replace the LOM and be available to all. This occurred on Pentecost (Acts 2) and is the law we have been addressing in the New Testament.

# God's law and our salvation

- Law – The Law we are under – described:
- The point: These descriptions emphasize that there IS a law that we are under today as Christians.

In examining these passages, is it a law WITHOUT action on our part? Being subject to this law, do we have responsibilities – or is that optional?

Does our salvation depend on keeping this law?

# But what about...?

- **Romans 6:14** – *you are not under law but under grace.*
- Consider the primary message of Romans (and Galatians).  
**Romans 1:16** – the gospel is God's power unto salvation.  
**Romans 1:17-3:26** – it is available to ALL
- Paul's goal in **Romans** is to emphasize that his Jewish audience is no longer under the law of Moses AND to his Gentile audience that they do not need the LOM!
- MOST of the time, when Paul mentions not being under law, or contrasting law, he specifically has the LOM in mind (or a similar perceived meritorious system).

# But what about...?

- **Romans 6:14** – *you are not under law but under grace.*
  - Leading up to this text:
    - **Romans 3:27-28** – boasting is excluded “by faith apart from the deeds of the law” (of Moses).
    - **Romans 4:1-4** – he appeals to the faith of Abraham (which preceded the LOM by ~500 years). Abraham believed and was accounted as righteous, even before circumcision (**4:9-12**). What is Paul’s point here? Our faith does NOT depend upon being circumcised (under the LOM). See also **4:13-16** – his faith was according to grace and is available to all.
- He is NOT dismissing obedience – **cf. James 2:21-24.**

# But what about...?

- **Romans 6:14** – *you are not under law but under grace.*
- Leading up to this text (more immediate context):
  - **Romans 5:20-21** – through law (including the LOM), sin is identified. *But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more...* God's grace is greater than the law.
  - **Romans 6:1-2** – Paul anticipates faulty reasoning – If God's grace is greater than sin, let us sin more so that we can experience more of His grace. He declares – CERTAINLY NOT! And reminds them that when they obeyed the gospel (baptism) they became a new creation. They were to CHANGE how they lived. That is the message of **Romans 6! 6:12-13** – Do NOT let sin reign in you.
- NOW consider our text! "Law" is about the LOM!  
See **vs. 15-16**. How you live matters! Grace does NOT negate the need to keep His law!

# But what about...?

- **Romans 11:5-6** – *...if by grace, then it is no longer of works. Otherwise, grace is no longer grace...*
- Considering our studies, the “works” identified here are a specific type – works (meritorious, earned) that nullify grace. Because you have earned something, you cannot call it a gift!
- NOTE the context. **11:1-4** – He is (again) speaking of Israelites (Jews). He is answering the question about whether or not Jews can be saved. The answer is, YES! BUT they are a remnant (who are faithful to God & Jesus). The “works” of our text are those who reasoned that keeping the LOM was necessary for all.
- Paul even appeals to himself as a Jew (**vs. 1**). How was Paul saved? He obeyed the gospel – **Acts 22:16**.
  - He did not earn it OR deserve it!

**1 Corinthians 15:8-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-16**

## But what about...?

- **Galatians 2:16** – *...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ...*
- NOTE the context. **2:11-15** – Paul is rebuking Peter for his hypocrisy. The primary law he has in mind is the LOM, which Paul noted they (including Peter) were no longer following (**cf. Acts 15:10-11**). Note also **2:21** – if the LOM, then Christ died in vain.
- In **Galatians 3 & 4**, Paul will proceed to explain how the LOM had completed its purpose and was no longer in force.

## But what about...?


- **Galatians 3:11** – *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”*
- NOTE the context. **3:10** – Paul speaks of the LOM in terms of a curse (things which the LOM could not accomplish – e.g., permanent forgiveness, a perfect sacrifice, required PERFECT law keeping, etc.). He quotes **Deuteronomy 27:26** and then explains how Christ has redeemed us from that curse (**Gal. 3:13**)
- This is NOT dismissing the need for obedience, but specifically needing the LOM or “another gospel”  
(**Galatians 1:6-9**)

## But what about...?

- **Galatians 5:4** – *You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- NOTE the context (**5:1-3**). Paul is concluding his discourse about why we are not under the LOM anymore. He is warning his audience that if they left Christ and turned to the LOM (or another gospel), *“you have fallen from grace.”*

## Concluding thoughts:

- We have seen that our salvation is a product of God's grace.
- But how do we receive that grace? Through the law He has given us. NOT a meritorious law or the Law of Moses, but through obedience accepting His grace (**Hebrews 5:9**).
- God HAS graciously JOINED us together through His law.



**What have you done to  
receive His grace?**