Scriptures and Doctrine :: Under Grace, Not Law

Under Grace, Not Law, on: 2014/8/18 19:32

John 1:17
For the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:14
For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Titus 2:11-12
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age

Brethren it is the grace of God that not only saves us. But it is the grace of God. that also sanctifies us in our practical w alk with Christ. This is why Paul can say that sin shall not be master over us. We are not under law but grace.

According to Titus, God`s grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires. God`s grace also teaches us to li ve sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age. I do not need to go to Moses for instruction. But go to Christ Him self as led by His Spirit.

This I find far more liberating then going to the code of Sinai.

My thoughts.

Blaine
.

Re: Under Grace, Not Law - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/8/18 19:50

When you say "grace teaches us" what does that mean?

I always thought grace meant "unmerited favor" that is getting something we haven't earned. How does grace "teach" s omething? I have always thought of grace as a concept not a "force" that does something.

In other words it is BECAUSE of grace that we should live godly lives; it is not grace that does this TO us.

I hope I am being clear because it is a little difficult to explain.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/8/19 2:38

oh noooo blain is at it again

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2014/8/19 5:19

TMK: "I always thought grace meant "unmerited favor" that is getting something we haven't earned. How does grace "te ach" something? I have always thought of grace as a concept not a "force" that does something."

A common misunderstanding of biblical grace and which is commonly taught is that it is just underserved favour and con fuses it with mercy. However when you study out what biblical grace is you find it is actually something God gives to us i n terms of enabling power. That would include power to overcome sin and live a godly life.

A good definition I heard based on biblical use of grace was that 'it is God's power and presence to enable us to be and t o do what He want asks us to be and do'.

This of course is undeserved, but it is an enabling power not just a concept.

Taking time to study out grace in the bible is a very beneficial activity.

Re: - posted by davidkeel (), on: 2014/8/19 5:33

I believe unmerited favour is the grace part and then knowing that your salvation is from a Holy God who no longer cond emns you for wrong behaviour but will convict you by His spirit. That's the teaching part.

John 16v8 :
And when he has come he will convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment. I believe it's this conviction of s in without condemnation that teaches us.

When we become saved we are no longer slaves of sin. But we aren't left in a place of not knowing as well, we are now i n a position of being a slave to righteousness. I believe spiritually there's no middle ground that anyone can now rest in.

Hey Dave, I thought that what you said about grace being an enabling power is good. Can you come up with anything more on that? A verse or something

Re: - posted by yuehan, on: 2014/8/19 5:56

Quote:
----------A good definition I heard based on biblical use of grace was that 'it is God's power and presence to enable us to be and to do what He want asks us to be and do'.

This of course is undeserved, but it is an enabling power not just a concept.

Taking time to study out grace in the bible is a very beneficial activity.

That's a very good definition of grace. Grace is indeed God's unmerited favor, and is all about His ability - acting both int ernally and externally upon us.

Here's a word study on "grace" which I came across recently: http://www.bible-researcher.com/grace.html

Re: - posted by davidkeel (), on: 2014/8/19 7:25

Many thanks for that Yuehan.

Re: , on: 2014/8/19 8:27

Was it not Richard Yuri who said grace is divine favor upon the Hunan heart?

Blaine

Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2014/8/19 8:41

I agree with Heydave that grace is more a divine enabling power to overcome sin. It appears that the church is somewha t split on this definition between an enabling power and unmerited favor.

If you do any research on what grace is in evangelical circles you will hear both definitions and at one point I was on the unmerited favor side UNTIL I realized what true biblical repentance is.

Not speaking of anyone here as I do not know your beliefs on this, but I have found that people who see grace as unmer ited favor tend to use grace as a license to continue in sinful behavior.

I have seen it, discussed it, and had people excuse their sinful behavior because they said we are under grace and not l

aw.

For me, when I was filled with the Holy Spirit after 9 years of struggling with sin in my own life, I was finally empowered t o overcome sin in my own life. Don't get me wrong, I like Paul have to die daily and have not arrived, I know I will not full y be like Him until I see Him face to face.

When I was baptized in the Spirit however, this was an area that the Holy Spirit instructed me in my own life and allowed me to see where much of the church is on this issue.

I could see men preaching easy believism (is that a word?)They would preach a gospel that tells people to just believe in God but Repentance was missing from this Gospel.

1 John speaks of Gods commandments in the OP that was raised. Chapter 3 deals with people who continue, abide, an d practice sin on an ongoing basis as someone who has never seen or known God, they are simply not His.

This is the problem as far as I have witnessed in much of Christendom. This idea that grace covers sin. As I said in the OP Paul says shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

For Paul also when he was being tormented by a messenger of satan who was sent to buffet him he lists in chapter 11 o f 2 Corinthians what that buffeting included, that Gods grace or enabling power was sufficient to endure the affliction, per secution, etc..

Many times we can talk past one another on a subject like this, but again for me, the danger and misunderstanding of w hat grace actually is, is a major difference between heaven and hell and it is a very serious subject.

I know I cannot keep the law in order to be saved, but by Gods grace, I can keep the law because I am saved. By the la w, I speak of the 10 commandments. Many are of a different opinion on this I am well aware. BTW, I do sin, not in an abi ding, continuing, or usual practice way. But there are times when the adversary snares me, but when I do sin, I feel terri ble, lose sleep, and I am grieved to the uttermost, UNTIL, I get right with God, repent and confess the sin.

As far as unmerited favor is concerned, that is my understanding as the definition of mercy.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/8/19 8:42

I still do not believe that grace is a "power". When the Bible talks about grace enabling us I believe it is another way of s aying that God or the HS is enabling us, because He is gracious.

For example it is said that if a person is following The Lord and he is going to be martyred for his faith that God will give him the grace to endure it.

But is that not just another way of saying that God will strengthen him in the time of trial? Grace isn't a "substance" like gatorade that God puts into us. I believe it is just a manner of speaking about how God favors His children.

This may be what heydave is saying but I am not sure. It may be a matter of semantics.

Re: , on: 2014/8/19 9:43

It seems that in Rom. 6:14 and Titus 2:11-12 that grace is more than a theological abstract. That it is an enabling power or dynamic by which one can live the Christian life.

Perhaps grace as used in the passages quoted in the OP is connected to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The linked artic les seemed to suggest this. In Heb.10:29 the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Spirit of Grace.

In Gal.5:18 Paul says if we are led by the Spirit we are not under the Law. This may be another way of stating Romans 6:14. Thus Paul may be implying we are not under Law but under the Spirit of grace who enables us to walk out our fait h in Christ.

If I may carry this thought further. What we are speaking of is the indwelling presence of Christ living in us by His Spirit. I remember Dr. Charles Stanley saying the blood of Jesus cleanses us from the "penalty" of sin. But the Person of Jesu

s living inside of us helps us overcome the "power" of sin.

That my friends is rich and marvelous Grace !

From the Bearcave.

Blaine aka Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/8/19 10:24

I agree bear!

Re: It is ALL GRACE, on: 2014/8/19 10:32

We are saved by Grace
We have been made righteous by grace
We have been made a new creation by grace
We have been justified by grace
We have been made one with God by Grace
We are now holy because of grace
We are Godâ€™s temple by grace
We have been seated in heavenly places by grace
We have been made a partaker of HIS divine nature
We have been reconciled to God by grace
We have been crucified with Christ by grace
We have been given a new heart by grace

But the best thing is that we have CHRIST Himself actually dwelling and living within us by grace.

The law can never even do one of these things

Re: , on: 2014/8/19 11:01

That Tuc is sweet, marvelous grace. His grace.

Blaine

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2014/8/19 11:35

Hi TMK,

I agree pretty much with what you wrote. I did not mean that 'grace' in itself is a power, but that it is the enabling power o f God in giving us what we need and in particular this would be the Holy Spirit. I think the article Yuhan posted was quite good. What I was highlighting was the often wrong definition of grace to mean God just forgives us and saves us no matt er what.

When the bible talks about grace it always seems to me to be talking about something that is given by God to us freely t o live an overcoming life, so salvation is grace, receiving the Spirit is grace, ability to endure trials is grace, etc, etc.

If I was pushed to give one scripture that describes 'grace' in terms of it being the power of God for our needs it would b e 2 Cor 12:9.....

"And He said to me, â€œMy grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.â€• Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Here God says to Paul that His grace is His strength to Paul in his weakness, which Paul then tells us is the power of Ch

rist on him.

I think grace and mercy get confused and used interchangeably in a wrong way. It has been said that mercy is not gettin g what we deserve and grace is getting what we don't deserve. I think there is truth in that, but even with this you have t o consider there is more to grace than just that.

Consider James 4:6

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.â€•

God give grace to the humble and not the proud. So grace cannot be something given arbitrarily.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/8/19 11:51

Heydave wrote:

"Consider James 4:6

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.â€•

God give grace to the humble and not the proud. So grace cannot be something given arbitrarily."

What's the difference between a proud heart and and humble heart?

Re: , on: 2014/8/19 12:03

Rookie has asked what is the difference between a proud heart and a tumble heart?

I think a proud heart is full of me. A humble heart is full of Jesus.

My simple answer.

Blaine

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/8/19 13:09

Brother Blaine writes...

"I think a proud heart is full of me. A humble heart is full of Jesus."

What does Scripture say the difference is?

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/8/19 14:52

Scripture seems to assume an understanding of what a proud heart is. Doesn't seen to be a deep concept.

Re: - posted by davidkeel (), on: 2014/8/19 15:07

Tuc, I was just wondering if when Paul said i have been crucified with Christ, was he just referring to himself ? Maybe it says it somewhere else in the new testament, I dont have a good memory at the moment so can't bring up any verses in my head.

Dave.

we have been crucified with him , on: 2014/8/19 16:02

Romans 6:1-14, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Gal 2:19-21, "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: neverthless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

2 Cor. 5:14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

Re: we have been crucified with him - posted by davidkeel (), on: 2014/8/19 18:27

Thanks for the verses youve shared Tuc

Re: Under Grace, Not Law - posted by Elibeth, on: 2014/8/19 20:36

Bear,
I SO appreciate you bringing up SO important question / subject !

But WHY is it SO important ?

Is it not Detrimental ?
Doesn't Truth / Lie,...cannot DECEPTION from Satan,play a big role in
this ? Isn't heaven / hell at stake ,...just by distorting this,...most important
Word ?

We all remember how Satan used the Word of God,..but twisted it when Jesus came up out of the wilderness....BUT Jesus could not be DECEIVED,or swayed. He was FULL of this Grace and Truth.(He was full of this Drawing power that came from His Fathers mouth. (Grace)

(He told Satan,..man does not live...(have Life) by bread alone,but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God).

Art Katz, in one of his tapes (I do not remember which one),..said that
" Grace was God Himself."..... Do any of you remember that tape ?

And we know that God is: The Spirit /Word,..He who speaketh,.Breath.

And we know that we cannot come to God except He Draw us.
Remember the strong Spirit of Grace Drawing us to Himself ?...Himself being The Spirit / Word. (God) Did we at some p oint stop allowing Him to Draw us by Hiis Devine influence upon our hearts,not quite understanding what was going on, that He might uncloth us ,that we might be clothed upon by Him ? Did we continue to grow in this Grace ?

This Grace teaches us,...draws us,by,..NOT a natural power to what The King' way is in the Kingdom.We know we cann ot expect to do ' our will' in that Kingdom.He is The King.

Grace is The gift of God,..an enabling power coming from The Lord' Spirit
that He put within us.

The Law was written up for us to read and try as we can,we cannot attain it.

Bro.Bear,..such great Scriptures you shared.
Thank you.

Please,..I submit in all humility,...complete and total.
I speak all of this with much fear.

Grace and peace,
Lovingly,
elizabeth

Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2014/8/22 19:24

TMK,

You ask the question,"When you say 'Grace teaches us' what does
that mean?

This is what I see that it means :

Do you remember when The Lord was drawing you to Himself ?
Wasn't it a Devine influence upon your heart ?.....That was The Grace of
God TEACHING us that we need a Savior,....and continuing to teach us,
as Paul say,"What must we DO Lord ?

And don't you think that must be a continual question to The Lord,
"What must we do Lord ?" I believe it was for Paul,...don't you?

Blessings to you,
elizabeth