

The Balanced Gospel: The Law and Grace

Romans 3:19-31

1. The law reveals our need for a **SAVIOR** (Romans 3:19-20)
2. Jesus **SATISFIES** the law on our behalf (Romans 3:21-26)
3. Then, we are called to **UPHOLD** the law as followers of Jesus (Romans 3:31)

John 15:5-11

4. Jesus **EMPOWERS** us to keep the law (John 15:5)
5. Love for Jesus is the **MOTIVATION** for keeping the law (John 15:10)
6. Lovingly keeping the law glorifies God and leads us to **FULL JOY** (John 15:8,11)

This is a re-occurring **PATTERN** in the Christian life.

The Gospel reveals a **BALANCE** between the law and grace in the Christian life.

Two Common Gospel Distortions:

1. LEGALISM (Romans 3:27-28) = An unbalanced focus on the Law.

Signs of Legalism: (TGC, Dan Doriani, "Legalist")

- When we "believe that we can do something to earn God's favor or even obtain salvation"
- When we "require other believers to submit to man-made commandments, as if they were God's law." (Pharisees)
- When we "obey God and do good in order to retain God's favor. Here we think of disciples who believe God's daily favor depends on their daily performance. When something goes wrong, they are prone to ask, "What did I do to deserve this? Is God punishing me for something?"

- When we “so dwell on God’s law that [we] neglect other aspects of the Christian life - the love of others, the nurture of character, the pursuit of noble but optional projects and more.”

Legalism is an unnecessary **BURDEN** (Matthew 11:28-30)

Legalism inevitably leads to **WEARINESS**

Life in light of the Gospel of Jesus leads us to **REST** in Him

2. **LICENTIOUSNESS** (vs.31)= An unbalanced abuse of grace

“You can admit from the start that you cannot obey this command and simply dismiss it as a biblical ideal you are not actually expected to obey.”

~ Robert H Thune, Will Walker, “The Gospel-Centered Life”

Licentiousness deprives us of the **FULL JOY** of Christ (John 15:11)

GLORIFYING God is the greatest joy we can experience in life.

Application Questions:

Do you tend to lean more towards legalism or licentiousness? Specifically how does that show in your life?

Are you currently or have you experienced the weariness or joylessness of these two extremes?