

How Does Grace Live?

The Gift of No Condemnation

By B. D. Tate

We cease judging! We stand in the liberty of forgiveness in the position of righteousness in Christ and then we move to operate in the **gift of No Condemnation!**

Grace walks according to this adage: ***“I don’t treat others the way I think they deserve.” Or, “I treat others the way they don’t deserve.”*** Another way of putting it, ***“I treat others the way I see God treats me.”*** The way I see God treating me, relating to me, is the way I’ll treat others.

We cease judging others. If anyone could judge, God could—***but He doesn’t judge anyone since Christ died and paid the penalty for all sin.***

Heb 10:12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins **forever**, sat down at the right hand of God,

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected **forever** those who are being sanctified.

Ro 8:4 “...that the righteous requirement of the law might be **fulfilled in us** who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Neither Do I Condemn...

Remember the beautiful account of the woman caught in adultery? Her accusers brought her before Jesus to have Him

judge her. They reminded Jesus of the Old Testament Law of Moses that anyone caught in adultery should be stoned to death. They wanted to trap Jesus into violating the law by showing His love and merciful attitude towards her.

John 8: 5 "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. **But what do You say?"**

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, **as though He did not hear.**

7 **So when they continued asking Him,** He raised Himself up and said to them, **"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."**

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 **Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience,** went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, **"Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"**

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, **"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."**

If anyone could have judged her it was Jesus. Jesus had no sin; therefore, He could have thrown a stone. Jesus could; but He would not. The Pharisees would; but they could not. What a difference in position and attitude between Jesus the Son of God who came into the world to save it; and self righteous sinners condemned under the law because of sin. When Jesus came into the world something changed dramatically in God's attitude towards man.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, **but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

Why didn't Jesus follow the law?

John 12:47 "**... for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.**"

The law was given to expose sin and bring everyone under examination and ultimately under guilt before God's Holiness. It succeeded; however, God's intent wasn't to smash us in condemnation **for there is no life in it**. For the law is a ministry of guilt and condemnation (II Cor. 3:7). The law is a ministry of death because of sin. The law constantly exposes our sinfulness and makes us sin conscious.

God's real intent was to bring us to our senses! God wants us to see that we are unable to justify or satisfy or be good enough to meet the **requirement of holiness**—ever. **God wants us to come to the end of ourselves so that we will reach out for grace.**

How Does Grace Live In Us?

We stop judging others and even ourselves because there is no life in it. It is a ministry of death and condemnation (II Cor. 3:7). From the Sermon on the Mount, "Judge not; lest you be judged," Jesus said this in order to get us to see **how self defeating it is to judge others**. No one can win by judging anyone else for both will lose. The moment we judge others we actually judge ourselves. For the sin nature that is in anyone else dwells in us. **Whatever sin someone else commits is only exposing what sin nature is like in all of us.** We may not commit or actually do what others do but the capability dwells in us. It is true: "...but by the grace of God there go I!"

When we judge others we show **our ignorance of the truth**. We show that we do not regard our sins like we regard the

sins of others. Every time we judge someone else **we are operating in a double standard**. We are not considering our sin as serious or egregious as the sin of others. Often we are harder on others than we are on ourselves or our loved ones. We do not judge equally. When we judge it is like we are picking up stones to throw at others.

When we judge we ***blind ourselves*** to the truth that the same nature that is manifesting in the one we are judging abides in us. James makes an alarming statement:

Jas 2:10 “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, **he is guilty of all**.”

This is true because **sin** is not ***a verb***; it is ***a noun***, a thing, it is a nature. It is not just an act, or action, or deed. Acts, deeds, or behaviors only manifest from the ***root cause which is sin nature***. We can look at **one** sinful action and it points to a ***root source of sin nature***. It is just a matter of time, pressure, stress, discouragement, anger, and frustration, before the whole of it begins to manifest even more. We do not become sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners (we have sin nature).

When I judge I am ***not considering my own sin***. I am not remembering ***my own bondage***. ***I am setting myself above the law as one who has kept it*** (or somehow I’m exempt from it) and nothing could be further from the truth. When we judge we do so from ***self righteousness***. There is nothing more offensive to God than self righteousness!

Isa 64:6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, **and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Ro 3:20 Therefore by the **deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight**, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

When I judge I am actually living life as a child and not as a son (Gal. 4:1)! I'm still under the tutelage of the law and operating as one who is *under its bondage*. I judge because I am compelled, entangled, and caught up in the "rat race" of human affairs. I am acting as if I am still very much alive in the flesh and provoked by this world. I haven't died to the old man; I haven't died to my life; I'm not acknowledging my death with Christ in the cross so that by faith I am no longer being held by the law. In truth I act as a child that hasn't put away childish things; however, a son no longer is under the guardian of the law! A son of God doesn't judge anymore because he knows he's under grace!

Col 3:3 **For you died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Ro 7:6 But now ***we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by***, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

How are we to live then? ***We live towards each other in the gift of no condemnation.*** Jesus said to the woman, "***Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.***" We treat others ***according to grace not according to what they deserve.*** We don't want to be treated according to our own works or we would be condemned also. ***Therefore, grace means we give the gift of no condemnation to others and as we do we give it to ourselves.*** We are operating in God's grace of no condemnation. For if anyone is in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation (Rom. 8:1) for those who walk according to the Spirit.

How can we do this? Doesn't this mean we will be looking the other way when sin occurs? Doesn't this mean we will be soft

on sin? Paul the apostle addressed this very issue. Listen to his answer:

Romans 6:1 **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?**

2 Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, **certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His resurrection,***

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, **that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

7 For **he who has died has been freed from sin.**

8 Now if we died with Christ, **we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For *the death* that He died, **He died to sin once for all;** but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin,** but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body,** that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present **yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.**

14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

I can now live without judging myself or others—that's liberty and grace. I don't judge myself because **I died with Christ** and the life I now live, I live In Him. I recognize that I am born again and all the old has passed away; behold all things have become new (II Cor. 5:17). I am a newly created spirit, born in the same likeness and nature of God. I have been made righteous and holy as a gift (Rom. 5:17). I live believing this truth, acting in this truth, and trusting in this truth so that I no longer judge myself. I have passed out from under God's judgment, from under the law's judgment, and I live in the kingdom of God's dear Son where I am no longer to judge myself. I examine and see myself as God sees me, redeemed and forgiven forever in the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:14). I am forgiven. I am made new. **I am in the Love of God!**

Consider This Passage

This passage is about ***circumcision***; however, the greater message is about the consequences of obeying, keeping, and staying under the law. When we consider our walk is in the Spirit and under grace then any effort to keep the law **becomes more than a problem**. We can't keep the law in its entirety; therefore, we are cursing ourselves by trying to keep any part of it (Gal. 23:10). Even as Christians we can ***fall from grace*** and walk back under the law and into the curse. Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13); but we must understand that by trying to practice the law in any way, and trusting in that effort, we are missing that blessing. We do not lose our salvation but we do reap what we have sown in this realm if we continue to practice judging others and self (Gal. 6:7).

When we read this passage and replace circumcision with any aspect of practicing the law, or coming under the law, we can see why our Christian life has mixed results. I'm applying

judgment of others and self to bring to light what the scriptures teach **are the results of practicing judgmental ways.**

Gal. 5:1 Stand fast therefore in *the liberty* (grace) by which Christ has made us free, **and do not be entangled again** with a yoke of bondage (trying to keep the law).

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised (judgmental), **Christ will profit you nothing.**

3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised (judgmental) that **he is a debtor to keep the whole law.**

4 **You have become estranged from Christ**, you who *attempt to* be justified by law (by judging others); **you have fallen from grace.**

When I become judgmental of others or of self this means that I am becoming **entangled with the affairs** of human relationships and **under bondage to the law** again. Christ's grace profits me nothing **because grace will not go with me to judge another.** I am practicing the law as a lawyer and therefore become a debtor to the whole law that I can't keep. I am playing the hypocrite thinking that my sin nature isn't like the sin nature of those I'm judging. I become estranged from Christ, not that Christ leaves me or forsakes me, **but that I have walked away from grace and am acting according to the flesh—on my own.** I am fallen from grace because **I am not giving grace to others or even my own life.** Judging others is an act of the flesh under the law and God is not joining in with us. It is more than just a problem; I have left my first love, left grace, and left the liberty of not judging anyone because I am not trusting God. I have in essence walked back under bondage and the curse **and I lose my peace.** It is like having an umbrella that keeps us under grace and not using it, and then becoming wet due to the rain of the curse of the law.

When I fail, walk according to the flesh and return to the old ways, I am like a dog returning to his vomit!

Pr 26:11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

What Am I To Do? I Stop Judging!

I renounce its (judgment) power; I thank God for the forgiveness in Christ. I claim release from the judgment of the law by faith in my redeemer. I walk in the Spirit realm; this is the supernatural realm of the child of God. I walk in grace; accepting and acknowledging what Jesus has done for me. I don't see God judging me because of His mercy through the blood; therefore, I am not going to judge others showing little or no mercy and continue in that folly. I do this because I believe the right things.

When I judge others having reverted back to sinful ways under the law, I renounce it. I disclaim its power in me; **I give myself permission** to let others go, to let myself go, and **to return to the position of grace again**. I do not harbor ill will towards others because by God's grace I am free from the law not to judge anyone! I do not have to defend myself. I do not have to be right. I do not have to make others see my point of view; but I lovingly give these things over to the one who judges righteously. This is what Jesus did. Listen:

I Pet. 2: 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23 who, ***when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;***

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, **might live for righteousness**—by whose stripes you were healed.

Reasons Why We Judge!

We judge because we are *sin conscious*. We are *law conscious*. We *do not trust God*. *We don't know God's love for us*. We are insecure. We do not believe God cares for us so we care (defend) for ourselves. **We have fallen from grace! Think about this: God will never give us the grace to judge someone else!**

When someone else is in charge and responsible to judge and to make judgments we can rest. We can rest especially if we know that person loves us, favors us, and considers us the beloved! Jesus knew the Father and trusted His judgment; therefore, He didn't need to judge anyone including himself. ***Let us not take the bait*** to become *offended and judge* someone, even ourselves. We submit to God and resist the devil's tricks, accusations, allegations, and judgments even if they are true. We fight the good fight of faith and labor to abstain from judging and so enter into His rest—His position of grace.

We are taking on the burden of judgment when we judge. We are stepping into the law and out of the realm of grace. We are satisfying our flesh, our temper, and our personal issues; **yet, it is only for a short period of time (sin has pleasure for a season)**. There is no lasting peace in the life of judgmental practice; it is fleeting. What generally remain are hurt, pain, anger, resentment, vengeance, and bitterness. No one wins when we judge. It separates us from God's grace and each other.

We think we are being strong. We think we are being just. We think we are being right. We think we are taking care of business. We think we are being smart, discerning, wise, and

overcoming foolishness...but we are leaving grace, peace, and rest as the eyes of judgments are never satisfied. We aren't being strong in faith; we are being strong in the flesh and being foolish again.

Judgmental people: are unsafe, offended, holding grudges, unable to relate well to others, stumble; add to the problem, create walls and roadblocks in communication; become defensive, highly critical, see themselves as superior; ***all the while operating in a double standard playing the hypocrite.*** No one can throw one pebble let alone a stone, no one is righteous, no one can boast; we are all self centered, self serving, blind guides leading the blind especially when we judge others...when we judge we become slaves of judgment. When we judge we are walking in the realm of the law and flesh. ***It is a ministry of death and condemnation.***

Let us therefore cast off our rights, defensiveness, and insecurities, and ultimately put off childish things. Let us ***embrace the love of God who has forgiven us of all our own sins***, made us righteous before Him, made us Holy in our Spirit, ***and accepted as His beloved!*** When we know God's love, we'll let the law go; we'll let others go, and we'll let ourselves go. We'll be trusting God, forbearing others, and ***giving them the same gift we have received...the gift of no condemnation!***

Conclusion

Why do I not want to Judge? It is because I know Him, the fellowship of His sufferings, and the power of His resurrection. It is because I'm being conformed to His death to this world, to the law, and to my self-centeredness...***God's love heals me, fills me, satisfies my longing, and makes me rest, relax, let go, and let Him...***When I know He's saved me to the uttermost, ***when I know***

He's my intercessor and made me righteous; **I want to live to what He's done in me**...I don't want to live under the old taskmaster any longer; entangled again in the bondage of trying to make things right or correct others...I want to live to love, holiness, His grace abounding in me, and ***His love shed abroad in my heart!***

When I let go of judging I'm living more righteously by accident than I ever did before with all of my effort of judging. I am free to trust God's grace and let Him be the enforcer, the constrainer, the revealer of hearts, the one who judges rightly, of me and of others; **because I am in God's love! My life is to focus on God's love for me so that I can live to what He's done in me. I am to the Son He's called me to be.**

Recommended Booklets:

What Does the Law Look Like? (That I Might Cast it Away)

Live to the One Who Judges Righteously

Our Focus is God's Love For

How Does God Show Us His Love?

Walking After the Spirit Verses the Flesh

We Cannot Beat the Law

He Ever Makes Intercession

Under Grace Not Law

The Law Verses Grace (Faith)