

Under Grace; Not Law!

By B. D. Tate

The Old Testament picture of our relationship to God is one of servitude. We fear Him because we are guilty. We fear Him because of His wrath. The law is laid down and we can see for ourselves when we are in line with it and when we are not. We clearly see the punishments and/or consequences of our behavior. For example if I steal then I was to repay seven fold. If I commit murder I was to be put to death. The whole framework of the law was ***“Thou Shall Not...” Each aspect of the law demanded from me obedience.***

What it (Law) Looks Like

I am a servant being **watched over** and judged. I am being **monitored** for my performance. If I do well then I am **approved**. If I don't do well I am **condemned**. It was if I was always under the gun, the pressure, and the **examination of God**. God's purpose seemed to focus on what I did wrong; just waiting for me to miss it. The law fenced me in. **The Law held me.**

The only time I could feel at ease was to obey, stay within the law, then I was acceptable and safe; yet, security was fleeting. It was fleeting because I could easily disobey. I was **in a constant state of battle** trying to be safe from God's wrath and righteous judgments against me. I was unsafe because sin empowered by the law won (I Cor. 15:56).

I needed to offer sacrifices, I needed to bring appeasement, and I needed to give offerings to make amends for

my life. I wanted to serve and please God but didn't really know if I was...**I had to serve from a distance.**

Obligation, Burden, Guilt, Condemnation Were My Constant Companions...I Could Never Feel Secure

Ro 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.**

Ga 3:10 **For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."**

Under the New Testament

Grace upon grace...I was no longer burdened with guilt, shame, condemnation, and fear of judgment...**God has satisfied His wrath, His anger, His judgment towards us in Jesus Christ on the cross.** God is satisfied that everything is paid for and atoned for in the blood; every sin, every violation, every selfish action, everything that is contrary to His love, **all completely judged.**

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all (*Judgment*) to Myself."

We are no longer held by the law because the law has been satisfied:

Mt 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

We have been redeemed from **its power to judge us**, to condemn us, to hold us under judgment through Christ our Savior:

Ga 3:13 Christ has **redeemed us from the curse** of the law, having become a **curse** for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

What is the Condition?

This is true for those who believe!

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, **even to them that believe on his name:**

What does this mean to me now? It means that I am no longer under its burden. I am no longer under the cloud of judgment that was **accumulating against me**. There is no longer a *record of sin* being kept in order to condemn me. I am not guilty any more...because Christ took my guilt on the cross.

What a strange thing; what a hard thing to grasp; I am no longer under the law and sin and guilt? How can that be, I certainly feel guilty; I certainly feel sin and condemnation what about these things now?

Heb. 9: 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

1Jo 3:21 Beloved, **if our heart does not condemn us**, we have confidence toward God.

I am to live by faith in the facts of redemption not according to the old ways any more...I am no longer under the law but under grace:

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are **not under law but under grace**.

It is the Spirit that matters...

Ro 8:1 There *is* therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the **Spirit**.

Ro 8:2 For the law of **the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death.

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**.

My life now is **not** about works, judgments, condemnation or guilt; **it is about love**...I have been redeemed from the fall, the curse, and alienation from God...**so that I can now know Him, walk with Him, and abide in Him freely!**

I am no longer to try to do things for God, under compulsion, under the burden of missing the mark of sin; I am to live in God, let His light fill my being and then let it shine out of me.

Try to Grasp This:

I am not working for God's blessing any more...the works that I do **are because of God's blessing in me**.

I am not trying to please and serve God in order to obtain anything...**I please and serve the Lord because I've already received Christ in me.**

I am not trying to be righteous and get God's favor and avoid His wrath...**I have been made righteous** by a free gift through the sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God; **I have God's favor, I will never see His wrath again!**

My life is changed from operating under the law and codes and regulations, or under religious rites, rules, and regulations; **to** being in a complete relationship with the Father no longer alienated looking in from the outside. I am inside by what Jesus has done for me; I now have rest in Him!

God is not looking for my good works; He wants me to accept His good work in me.

God is not watching over me to judge me; He wants me to accept His presence, His love, and His complete approval of my being In Jesus!

God is not monitoring my life to see what I do or don't do. **I have His Spirit and He desires me to operate completely in His peace, His Spirit, His way, and His will as a matter of daily response to being born again!**

What is accumulating in heaven over my life are the treasures of God's Spirit moving with and operating in me; I am working as a co-laborer in this realm. God's pleasure is found when I **submerge myself** in His being and together we live and move and have our being in this life.

Ga 2:20 "**I have been crucified with Christ**; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Live Under Grace

How then do I live under grace? I realize that the battle is over in trying to do things **for** God; to keep His law and do right because I can't keep it up. **I realize that God is pleased when I accept everything God has done for me in reconciling my life to His.** I am made righteous in Christ (Rom. 5:17; Philemon 1:6 & I Cor. 1:30)!

The work of the flesh verses the Spirit: If I am guilty, condemned, and feeling judged **it is not God at work in me**; it is my own sin consciousness at work. If my own heart condemns me; it is a work of the flesh not the Spirit for all of my sins have been atoned for in the cross.

I need to forgive myself! I need to let go of a guilty conscience and humble myself to **accept God's answer not mine.** God did it, God solved it, God provided it; but all of it is in Jesus.

When I walk in Jesus am pleasing the Lord; when I am spiritually minded I am serving the Lord. When I am filled with the Spirit **I am standing in the best place there is**; a place of security and a place of complete freedom in the Lord!

My life is no longer about how to do things for God; but learning how to live with God in me. I need to abide in Him in His peace, and live in His pleasure; the joy of the Lord is my strength!

How can this be that God is not holding my sins against me? I feel guilty! I feel condemned! This is not the work of the Spirit any longer; it is the law that condemns me. My own heart condemns me. Under grace the Lord says to my heart, **“walk in my love, forgive yourself, accept my Spirit, and walk in my grace...”**

My job now is to know Him and recognize His voice; I am to abide in faith and walk in grace. I am to think, speak, and act in faith...choose to believe, choose to stand in it and understand that I have been given life—the God kind of life and it is Jesus in me!

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

The more I believe and recognize Him in me the more I know Him. The more I sense His presence the longer I stay aware of who He has made me. **The more I do these things the more I reflect and fulfill God’s purpose for my life**—that is to show the glory of God (II Cor. 3:18).

It is no longer about the law; I am no longer under it. Its curse, its condemnation, and its guilt lose its place in me **because I accepted Jesus!** I can now rebuke the law, rebuke the curse, cast away condemnation and guilt and remain in His peace...**I am redeemed!**

I am redeemed from the battle; the war is over between me and God. I have surrendered, I am no longer outside; I am inside His bosom!

Consider this passage:

Rom. 8: 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? ***It is God who justifies.***

34 Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is nothing outside of my own believing that can hinder the love of God flowing in my life. We are more than conquerors in life because of what Jesus has done (Rom 5:17).

The Ambassador Illustration!

Consider this truth: We are ambassadors for Christ but we are not without Him (II Cor. 5:20). Our ambassadorship is a faith walk in His grace. It is His presence within us; it is our relationship with Him, working with us, and within us. In other words, we

don't act as His ambassadors *on our own* (on His behalf); but it is His life in us doing it with us... (Gal. 2:20).

As an ambassador we are in a unique position just as any ambassador is while living in the country He is assigned to. As an ambassador he/she may be living in another country but his/her ***citizenship is from the homeland***. An ambassador is actually under the authority of the country that sent him/her and *not subject to the laws of the land they are serving in*. **An ambassador has (diplomatic) immunity** and even if he/she commits a crime and the police arrest him/her the laws of that country cannot touch him/her. Immunity means that the worst thing that can happen is expulsion. We are God's ambassadors and our citizenship is of another kingdom (***if we believe it***). Therefore, even though we may still sin and sow from the flesh we **can claim immunity because of the blood of Christ!** The law of God may have every right to bring upon us what we deserve (Gal. 6:7); however, **because of grace we don't get what we deserve we get what we believe!** We can repent, humble ourselves, forgive ourselves and then turn and rebuke the curse of the law **because we are redeemed!** It's amazing grace that sets us free from the law of sin and death; Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13)!

Conclusion:

It is God who judges and condemns through the Law. There is no other being that we must give an account of our lives to! If God be for us who can stand against us? **If God is satisfied who am I to deny it?** We are more than conquerors because we have been lifted out of the miry clay of sin and guilt and darkness

into the kingdom of His dear Son! If we are still under the law in guilt and shame it is not God's will. In essence we are living life as if we are still **under our own sin consciousness—as mere men.** We are redeemed now, we are forgiven now, and we are righteous in His sight now; it is by grace through faith that we live this life now as if Jesus were living it through us (I John 4:17 **because as He is, so are we in this world.**)...this is what pleases the Lord that we know Him, love Him, and abide in Him; that we abide in His peace and in His rest...**under grace not the law.**