

LAW AND GRACE CONTRASTED

What the Law Is and Does	What Grace Is and Does
The law is a mirror. It reveals the dirt on our faces but cannot cleanse us (James 1:23-24).	Grace is a fountain that cleanses us from every stain of sin (John 13:10).
Three thousand men died when the law was brought down from Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:28).	Three thousand people were saved on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down (Acts 2:41).
The law is a judge and never a savior.	Christ alone is the Savior of the world. He came not to condemn the world, but to save it (John 12:47).
The law contains God's holy commands and prohibitions for sinful mankind (Exodus 20:1-17).	Grace is God lovingly showing favor to undeserving and repentant sinners (Titus 3:4-5).
The law demands that you work in order to be accepted by God (Galatians 3:12).	Grace teaches that faith is the only way to be accepted by God (Hebrews 11:6).
The law is a ministry of condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:9).	Grace is a ministry of justification (Romans 3:24).
The law could never redeem the human race (Romans 8:3).	Grace, through Christ's death, brought mankind redemption (Ephesians 1:7).
The law says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).	Grace says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36).
The law says, "Try."	Grace says, "It is finished" (John 19:30).
The law demanded that the adulterous woman be stoned (Leviticus 20:10; John 8:5).	Grace says, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).
The law tells us to get to work.	Grace puts within us a desire to serve God from the heart (2 Corinthians 5:14).
Under the law, Sabbath breakers were stoned to death (Numbers 15:32-36).	Under grace, Christ is our Sabbath, and believers are not judged by holy days (Colossians 2:16-17).
The law cannot change a sinner's heart (Jeremiah 13:23).	The grace of God transforms the sinner's heart (Titus 2:11-12).
The rich young ruler kept the law outwardly, yet still lacked something (Matthew 19:20).	Grace makes every believer complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).

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Law-keeping caused the Pharisee to boast before God (Luke 18:11-12).	Grace humbles us and causes us to boast only in the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14).
The law says, "Do and live" (Ezekiel 18:21).	Grace says, "Believe and truly live" (John 6:35).
The law shuts every mouth in guilt before God (Romans 3:19).	Grace allows believers to come boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).
The law brings a curse upon all who fail to keep it perfectly (Galatians 3:10).	Grace redeems us from the curse and brings blessing (Galatians 3:13-14).
The law kills (2 Corinthians 3:6).	Grace gives life (Romans 5:17).
The law says, "An eye for an eye" (Exodus 21:24).	Grace says, "Overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).
The law is a religion of probation (Galatians 3:10).	Grace is the gospel of eternal certainty and assurance (Hebrews 12:28).
The law, when reigning, brought condemnation and death (Romans 5:20).	Grace now reigns through righteousness unto eternal life (Romans 5:17).
The age of law ended at the cross (Colossians 2:14; John 1:17).	The age of grace began at the cross and will never end (Hebrews 13:20).
No man ever kept the law perfectly except Christ (John 8:46).	Grace enables believers to fulfill the righteousness of the law by walking in the Spirit (Romans 8:4).
The law never made anyone righteous (Galatians 2:16; Acts 13:39).	Grace makes every believer righteous in Christ (Romans 3:24).
The law is both a chain and a yoke (James 2:10; Acts 15:10).	Grace is not lawlessness, but freedom that lovingly submits to Christ (Galatians 5:1).
The law was made for sinners and the ungodly (1 Timothy 1:9).	Grace transforms sinners into children of God through faith in Christ.
The law placed a wall between Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14-15).	Grace broke down that wall and made both one in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-18).
The law kept man separated from God behind the temple veil (Hebrews 9:6-8).	Grace tore the veil open so all may come boldly to God through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20).
The law placed great distance between God and man (Exodus 19:12-13).	Grace reconciles believers and brings them near to God (Ephesians 2:13).

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Paul discovered that the law could not give victory over the flesh (Romans 7:9-25).	Through Christ and His grace, believers can have victory over sin (Romans 7:25).
The law was Israel's schoolmaster until Christ came (Galatians 3:24).	Grace makes believers full-grown sons and daughters in God's family (Galatians 4:1-5).
Legalists claim righteousness comes only through keeping the law (Acts 15:1,5).	Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Job were declared righteous by faith before the law was ever given (Hebrews 11).
Legalists at Jerusalem taught that Gentiles must keep the law to be saved (Acts 15:1,5).	Peter declared that salvation comes by grace through faith apart from the law (Acts 15:7-12).
Legalism divided the church at Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14).	The message of grace preached by Paul restored unity (Galatians 2:15-21).
The law was only a temporary part of God's redemptive plan (Galatians 3:19).	Grace has always been God's way of dealing with mankind (Psalm 103:17).
At Mount Sinai, Israel accepted and placed themselves under the Old Covenant of the law (Exodus 19:3-8).	At Calvary, believers entered into the New Covenant of grace, completely different from the law (Hebrews 8:6-13).
The law "was added" as a temporary covenant (Galatians 3:19).	Grace is an everlasting covenant (Hebrews 13:20).
The ceremonial laws were fulfilled at the cross because they were only shadows and types of things to come (Hebrews 10:1).	Grace is the fulfillment and reality of those shadows and types (Hebrews 9:8-10).
The moral law could never justify or give life (Acts 13:39; Galatians 3:21).	Grace gives both justification and eternal life through Christ (Romans 3:24; Romans 6:23).
The law was given only to Israel, not to the Gentiles (Exodus 19:5; Romans 2:14).	The grace of God has appeared to all men, both Jew and Gentile (Titus 2:11).
The New Testament never says the law is our guide.	The Holy Spirit is our guide (John 16:13).
Those who seek to live under the law reject the authority of Christ and the New Covenant of grace (Hebrews 8:10-12).	Grace recognizes Christ and His New Testament as God's final word to mankind (Hebrews 1:1-2).
The New Testament never says believers will be judged by the law.	Scripture says we will be judged by the words of Christ and the gospel (John 12:48; Romans 2:16).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Galatians 3:21

“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”

John 1:17

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Romans 3:19

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

FINAL THOUGHT

The law reveals sin, but it cannot save sinners.

Grace, through Jesus Christ, saves completely.

The law points us to our need for a Savior. Grace introduces us to that Savior.

Jesus Christ fulfilled what the law could never accomplish. Through His death and resurrection, sinners can be forgiven, justified, reconciled to God, and given eternal life freely by grace through faith.

Romans 6:14

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”