

Main Contrasts between Legalism & Grace

~ cited from Henry Holloman, *The Forgotten Blessing* (Nashville: Nelson, 1999), 119.

Legalism:

1. Operates through the flesh (Rom. 8:3)
2. Cannot save or sanctify (Rom. 3:20; 7:14-25; 8:3; Gal. 2:16, 21; 3:1-5)
3. Depends on human power (Rom. 7:18-25; 8:8; Gal. 3:3)
4. Produces works of the Law by flesh (Rom. 3:20 Gal. 3:2, 5)
5. Emphasizes the flesh and the works of the flesh (Rom. 7:18; 8:2-3; Gal. 5:19-21)
6. Cannot conquer “fleshly indulgences” (Col. 2:23, see Rom. 7:18-19)
7. Brings spiritual bondage and wretchedness (Rom. 6:14 7:1-6, 24; Gal. 3:23-25; 4:3, 9; 5:1)
8. Causes frustration (Rom. 7:18-19)
9. Fails (Rom. 7:18-25)

Grace:

1. Operates through faith (Rom. 4:16; Eph. 2:8)
2. Can save and sanctify (Rom. 3:24-26; 6:14; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11-12)
3. Depends on divine power (Rom. 6:14; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:8-9)
4. Produces good works by faith (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:8)
5. Emphasizes the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit (Rom. 8:4, 13; Gal. 5:16-18, 22-23)
6. Can conquer sin (Rom. 6:14; 8:13) and the “desire of the flesh” by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)
7. Brings spiritual freedom, life, and peace (John 8:31-32, 36; Rom. 6:14; 7:1-6; 32, 36; Rom. 6:14; 7:1-6; 8:6; 1 Cor. 9:20; Gal. 3:24-25; 4:7, 21-31; 5:1, 18)
8. Promotes progress (Rom. 8:13; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 2:13-14; 2 Pet. 3:18)
9. Succeeds (Rom. 5:20; 6:14; 8:1-4, 13; 1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 5:16)

Dr. Holloman writes:

Believers have been introduced into God’s grace and they ‘stand’ in this grace (Rom. 5:2). But God expects His people to do more than stand in grace; He commands them to ‘grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).

We enter and appropriate God’s grace for our sanctification and other needs by practicing five key requirements: (a) be humble instead of proud before the God of grace (James 4:6); (b) abide in Christ who provides all the fullness of grace (John 15:1-7); (c) receive and obey God’s Word of grace (Acts 20:32); (d) be filled with the ‘Spirit of Grace’ (Eph. 5:18); and (e) go continually and confidently to God’s throne of grace (Heb. 4:16).

The more we appropriate God’s grace, the more we progress in sanctification by grace.

Many Christians wonder, ‘How can I experience spiritual liberty, victory, vitality, and abundance in my Christian life?’ The biblical answer is: ‘Learn to live and grow in grace.’ [pg. 120].