

Biblical Foundations for Ministry

Law and Grace

1. Law system

- a. Entering heaven by law-keeping
 - 1) Perform every positive requirement
 - 2) Do not violate any prohibitions (the negatives)
 - 3) Cottrell's maxim for the Law System
 - a) Keep the commandments, escape the penalty
 - b) Break the commandments, suffer the penalty
- b. A just reward
 - 1) No salvation in the law system
 - 2) Attaining heaven would be wages due (Rom. 4:4)
- c. Applicable under any divine law code
 - 1) Creation Mandates
 - 2) The Law of Moses
 - 3) The Law of Christ (New Covenant)
 - 4) The law written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15)
- d. Practical reality
 - 1) Theoretically possible, practically impossible
 - 2) Anything less than perfect obedience brings condemnation (Gal. 3:10; James 2:10)
 - 3) All have sinned and fallen short (Rom. 3:23)

2. Grace system

- a. Entering heaven by being forgiven
 - 1) Respond to God's offer of grace
 - 2) Comply with his terms of salvation
 - 3) Claim the substitutionary atonement of Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - 4) Cottrell's maxim for the Grace System:
 - a) Keep the commandments, yet suffer the penalty
 - b) Break the commandments, yet escape the penalty
- b. A gift from God (Eph. 2:8)
 - 1) It is not fair (not intended to be)
 - 2) It is better than fair (grace)
 - 3) A free gift with expectations
 - a) The grace system requires a deliberate choice
 - b) The law system is our default

2. Living under grace

- a. Free from the law system (heaven through law-keeping)
- b. Free from the old covenant (Gal. 3:24-25)
- c. Always obligated to obey the moral code of God

