

Law vs. Grace

Achieving System		Receiving System
Romans 6:14 - "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace."	economy	Romans 7:6 - "But now, having died to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code."
Do	says	Done
Man does	emphasizes what	God does
Flesh (self-life)	lives out of the	Spirit (Christ-Life)
Man's resources	draws on	God's resources
External rules, regulations, rules, standards	deals with	Inner heart attitude
Ought to's should's have to's must's	primary focus	want to's
Bondage, duty, obligation	creates	Freedom
Outside - in	lives life from the	Inside - out
Do...in order to be	declares	You are...therefore do
Defeat, guilt, condemnation	produces	Victory, security, acceptance
Try harder, work, effort	operating principle	Receive, trust, rest, abide
	*additionally...	
Detailed compliance	summary	Love God and others
Imitation	ideal	Participation
Operate	relationship	Cooperate
Fear of condemnation	motive	Gratitude for justification
Servants	role	Sons/daughters
"For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, 'The man who does those things shall live by them.'" Rom 10:5 "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10	righteousness	"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Rom 10:4, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Eph 2:8,10

Case Studies

Situation	Law (Performance) Response	Grace (Identity) Response
Temptation to yield to an immoral sexual opportunity	God says I shouldn't do this. Even though I want to do it, I must say no to my desires to yield and grit my teeth and obey God. Holiness demands that I resist this temptation. I have to say no to this situation or God will punish me.	Even though I feel like I want to sin, I choose to agree with God that I have been crucified with Christ and have died to sin's authority. Therefore, these thoughts and feelings are not coming from me, but from the power of indwelling Sin. I am a righteous; holy, child of God who is secure and significant, and who really [in my spirit] does not want to nor need to yield to this temptation. Since I know who I am in Christ, I'm free to say yes to my new self. I chose to believe that God will meet my emotional needs for intimacy as I trust Him.
Personal failure, or mistake at a task	Why did I do that? What is wrong with me? I'm so worthless! I always mess things up! I'm such a failure! I need to do better. I'm not measuring up to what God expects of me and I know He is angry with me. I ought to do a better job so God will be glorified. My failure is a poor witness for Christ. I should be further along in my experience so I don't mess up like this.	That hurts! I wish I hadn't have done that. But I choose to agree with God that this is not an expression of my life. Since everything I have and everything I am belongs to Christ (including my reputation), I have given up the right to be perfect and am willing to make mistakes. I'm free to fail. My self-esteem is not based on my performance but on Christ who is my life. It is good to be humbled. God gives grace to the humble. A proper response to failure can be a better witness for Christ than flawless performance. This is an opportunity to learn and grow, and exhibit to others the peace and joy that is mine in Christ. Even though I failed, I'm still accepted in the Beloved! I'm going to see myself as God sees me and forgive myself. "Failure" is not my identity; I'm a saint who temporarily failed.
A family member or work associate who repeatedly hurts and irritates me	This person really bugs me! I don't know why God doesn't change this person. I've got to hold my temper and try to forget about it. God requires me to forgive 70x7, so I guess I have no choice but to ignore what is me happening to me. I should act like a loving person in order to be a good Christian. .	I'm angry over what this person has done to me. This hurts! I feel humiliated, misunderstood, and rejected. But I choose to welcome this situation as an opportunity to let Christ express His Life through me. I receive this negative situation as a blessing in disguise. Since I am a new person in Christ, spiritually I am a forgiving person... even when my soul doesn't feel like forgiving. Not to forgive would be inconsistent with my essential nature [in my spirit]. After I forgive, I'm free to ask God to cause me to see this person with His eyes and to discover the hurt inside this person that is contributing to the negative behavior. I'm going to look for an opportunity to

		I am going to look for an opportunity to bless this person and will ask the Lord if and when I might need to confront this person in love about this negative behavior.
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Adapted from The Marvelous Exchange by Dick Flaten (Texas: Exchanged Life Ministries). Available through CrossLifeBooks.com

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