

The Institute of Self-Worth®
Teaching Notes

Grace, Law, and Righteousness

In John 1:17 we are told that Moses gave us the law but Jesus gave us grace and truth. The law or Moses represents our performance. Grace and truth or Jesus represents our belief in Jesus' performance.

The law requires us to perform to be accepted by God, whereas, grace is the belief system that says you are accepted by God.

In Matthew 14:19-21 we find grace feeding the thousands.

In Matthew 6:9 we find what is commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer, which is an Old Testament prayer, giving us our daily bread.

The law does feed us, but just our daily bread. Grace, on the other hand supplies enough bread to feed thousands with twelve baskets left.

The law says, "I earned this position". Grace says, "Jesus gave me this position".

In all of Paul's letters, there is a thread that runs through each book defining the difference between the law and grace.

II Timothy 2:15 says that when we study we need to study for one purpose, to show ourselves or our soulish man that we have been approved by the blood of Jesus—not by our own performance. Once we know we've been approved, we don't have to be ashamed and then we can rightly divide the Word of truth. Since grace and truth are the same, we could read this scripture as rightly dividing the Word of grace.

When you know the truth, you will be able to know when someone is preaching a message of performance or a message of grace.

In II Timothy 2:25-26, Paul says that when we repent **TO** truth, we repent **FROM** a lie. If you are repenting to something, you are repenting from something. When you repent to the truth, you are turning toward grace; then you are repenting from a lie or a performance based mentality.

In John 5:45 Jesus said, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuses you, even Moses, in whom you trust". Remember, Moses represents the law and Jesus represents grace and truth. So, if you trust the law, you're placing your trust in your performance. If you are trusting in your performance, yourself or others will always accuse you when you don't do it right.

In Hebrews 13:9, the writer says to “let your heart be established with grace”. In Matthew 12:34 Jesus said that “out of the abundance of the heart” our “mouth” speaks. Our mouth always reveals the contents of our heart.

Then in Colossians 4:6 we are told “let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer everyman”.

When we are born again we become the salt of the earth or converts. However, as we begin to mature as a Christian and begin to understand grace, we become a seasoned Christian.

Being Double Minded

In James 1:7,8 we find that a “double minded man is unstable in **ALL** his ways” and he will not receive anything from the Lord.

What does double minded mean? A double minded man is one that is trying to live a life of performance and a life of grace at the same time. That’s like trying to mix oil and water; they don’t mix.

Romans 3:21 says the righteousness of God “without the law” is manifested. Righteousness with a mixture of the law will not be manifested.

A Reality Check

How do we know if we are operating out of a performance based mentality or out of a grace mentality? Romans 2:15 gives us the answer: by listening to yourself to see if you are accusing others for not doing it right while excusing yourself when you don’t do it right.

Grace doesn’t set a standard for others to live by while the law sets a standard for their lives. That standard will determine whether or not they are accepted. If Jesus accepted us before we did it right or wrong, who are we to accept others based on their performance?

Access Denied or Accepted

Romans 5:1,2 Paul tells us our access into this grace is our trust in the fact that Jesus did it all. If we try to access His grace by our performance, we will be denied. When we realize it’s His performance and not ours that gives us access to this grace, we are accepted.

Spiritual Adultery

Romans 7:1-6 In this passage we are told how we commit spiritual adultery. Many messages have been preached to divorced people telling them they can never remarry.

People in abusive marriages have been told they must stay in the marriage and continue to be abused. This type of message is a message of control. Paul is not talking about marriage, as we know it. He's defining the difference between law and grace. When Jesus died on the cross and announced "**It is finished**", He was declaring the law is dead and you are free to "marry" grace.

The spiritual adultery comes into play when we are saved by grace but try to maintain this life of grace by a life of our own performance.

Two Trees

In the garden, God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or blessing and calamity. Along with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, there was the tree of life. Adam was free to eat of the tree of life.

As you know, Satan got Eve and Adam to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. His goal was to then get them to eat of the tree of life and never be able to die. But God's mercy intervened and He drove them out of the garden. Now Adam and Eve were subjected to a life of performance where everything they did would be judged. That same performance system is alive today.

This was not God's plan for man to live behind the veil of deception. In Romans 7 Paul tells us about the law being good but evil is still present. All of this is made possible because Adam gave birth to the knowledge of "good and evil". The problem with the Church today is we've been living off the fruit of this tree and we've found ourselves, as Paul said in Romans 2:15, "accusing and excusing".

Jesus came to fulfill the law for you and me so we wouldn't have to fulfill it. God knew we couldn't, so He sent Jesus to do it for us.

When Jesus went to the cross the entire curse that had come on us through Adam was nailed to the cross; all sickness, all poverty, all confusion, all offense, and most importantly, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now we are free to eat of the tree of life (Romans 8:2).

It's not about your performance but Jesus' performance.

The Institute of Self-Worth®
Exam

Grace, Law and Righteousness

1. In John 1:17, Moses represents _____ and Jesus represents _____.
2. The law requires us to perform to become something we already are. True or False
3. What is the one purpose we are to study (given in II Timothy 2:15)?
4. In John 1:17 are grace and truth the same?
5. What do the words “rightly dividing the word of truth” mean in II Timothy 2:15?
6. When we repent “**to**” the truth what do we repent “**from**”? II Timothy 2:25-26
7. What is the **lie** we repent from?
8. Can you mix law and grace together?
9. What scripture gives us a reality check and helps us determine if we are operating out of performance or grace?
10. Colossians 4:6 talks of seasoned salt. How do you know if you are seasoned salt?

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Institute of Self-Worth®
Answer Sheet

Grace, Law, and Righteousness

1. Moses—Law
Jesus—Grace and Truth
2. True
3. To show ourselves we are approved (by God)
4. Yes
5. Knowing the difference between performance and your belief
6. A lie
7. The lie that says it's your performance that makes you right with God.
8. No
9. Romans 2:15
10. By your speech of grace