



## Above and Beyond

Every child from infancy is taught a behavioral standard from their parents or guardians whether ethical or immoral. However, there is a built-in moral mechanism within every older child that is experienced at a conscience level above any other standard. The older child reaches this milestone of moral reasoning or ability to distinguish right from wrong at a varying age. Through life experience, observation, and parental or guardian guidance, the older child then makes primary decisions to accept or reject that God-given standard. How far they accept or reject that God-instilled morality will be the determining factor in building their belief system as a teenager, which will affect their outcomes as an adult.

A man of God says it best in another way:

- “The neglected heart will soon be a heart overrun with worldly thoughts; the neglected life will soon become a moral chaos.” - **A.W. Tozer**

God-instilled morality is either accepted and experienced or rejected and ignored. Once this God-given standard takes control of the conscience, it will stir up all kinds of evil passions and lusts that are already within. It is the place where sin becomes self-aware. It is a knowing intuitively what is right, but not having the power to follow through. On the contrary, that which you want to do, you cannot. And when you do follow through, the conscience won't be satisfied. The Bible identifies this form of death as an outcome of being under the **Law**.

### **Romans 8:2**

And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

As a believer in Christ, your expression has been set free by the power of the life-giving Spirit to experience fruit to God. However, your sense of morality does not come from the Law of Moses or any other religious standard. Your sense of morality now comes from the Law of Liberty; and not just the morality but the power to be able to follow through in a natural and effortless manner, without having a moral compass in your pocket. To the believer in Christ, it is a second nature. And even when you do miss the mark, an eternal peace at the conscience and heart level remains. The Bible identifies this life-flow experience as an outcome of being under **Grace**.

### **James 1:25**

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

The perfect Law of Liberty is a description of what Jesus has done through His finished work and the fruit He will bear in your life. To look into the perfect Law of Liberty is to center your heart on Jesus and His Grace through the Word of God. When you look into this mirror, instead of being aware of all your flaws, the gift-righteousness that is from Christ will be recalled and you will see yourself with the same high regards God sees you. You will by faith see yourself righteous in Christ even when your thoughts, speech, or actions don't align. How this will emancipate your heart as you experience this wonderful Grace.

Then all of a sudden, you will fulfill all God-given morality instinctively and you will unconsciously and effortlessly even go above and beyond what the moral law demands through love because love is the fulfillment of the Law. This time you will supernaturally begin to love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. You will find yourself being exactly like Jesus according to the Word.

### **Romans 6:17-18**

Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

Therefore, to be under Grace and not Law does not mean you are lawless. It means that as the eternal righteousness of God in Christ, you are beyond the Law of Moses or any other religious law; you are no longer subject to the requirements of the Law. However, it should not be used as an excuse to live wrong. Because you now belong to Him, you are now a slave of righteousness; you are a slave to the freedom of God's Grace, which will lead towards living right.

Only by being under Grace, will you live right according to the Word. It is a living that comes from the inside-out and not from the outside-in. It is a living that goes above and beyond what the Law could ever demand because it's an effortless living through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*-Does this mean the Holy Spirit helps us to keep the Law of Moses?*

A thousand times no!

Let's assume the Holy Spirit helps us to keep the Law and take this hypothetically to its ultimate conclusion. According to the Law, one should not eat medium rare cooked meat; one should not wear clothing mixed with different types of cloth; one should isolate friends and family members who have a disease. Is this the Holy Spirit's intention in your life? I don't believe so.

Rather, in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul said all things are lawful but not helpful or beneficial. The Holy Spirit will lead you from within according to the Law of Liberty to do you good, bring edification in your life, and adopt a well-balanced lifestyle through the Word of God. The intention of the Holy Spirit in your life is to glorify Jesus and unite the Church.

At the end of the day, it is not up to anybody to make up a standard of living for you but living in sync with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as you engage in the life-flowing experience of His Grace towards moral excellence.

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