



GOOD WORKS

the life of grace

“A Christian is one who recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, as God manifested in the flesh, loving us and dying for our redemption; and who is so affected by a sense of the love of this incarnate God as to be constrained to make the will of Christ the rule of his obedience, and the glory of Christ the great end for which he lives.” Charles Hodge, Commentary on II Corinthians

Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-8

I. THIS EMPHASIS ON GRACE WORRIES US:

- A. Because we are all recovering Pharisees.
- B. Because we worry about antinomianism-grace seems to be against the whole idea of commandments and obedience.
- C. For the believer, is grace motivation to live like a citizen of hell or to live like a citizen of heaven? (Romans 12:1, 2)

II. THE LAW

- A. The Law cannot be the cause or means of our justification. We are neither saved nor kept by our obedience to the law.
- B. The Law's purpose is to show us our sin and drive us to Christ.



- C. The Moral Law shows us who we are to obey and what we are to obey.
1. The “what” without the “who” is Pharisaism; the “who” without the “what” is liberalism.
 2. Christian obedience is never obedience to impersonal commandment/law. Our obedience is obedience to a Person.
 3. Only love is the fulfillment of the law.
- D. Distinction between interpretation and application
- E. Only grace/the gospel can make us the friend of God’s commands. (Psalm 119 and the normal Christian life)
- F. Only the Holy Spirit can motivate and produce cheerful obedience and love for God. (Luke 11:13; Philippians 2:12, 13)
- “The Spirit of Christ [subdues and enables] the will of man to do freely and cheerfully, that which the will of God, revealed in the law, [requires] to be done.”*
Westminster Confession of Faith



III. CHRIST IS OUR JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION.

- A. Union with Christ produces real change, because it is the union with Jesus in His death and resurrection. (Romans 6:5-7; Ephesians 2:4-10)

- B. Augustine's Fourfold State of Man
 - 1. Before the fall-possible to sin

 - 2. After the fall-not possible not to sin

 - 3. In Christ-possible not to sin

 - 4. In Heaven-not possible to sin

IV. GRACE PRODUCES A NEW LORDSHIP: GOD RATHER THAN SELF AND SIN.

Saving grace is the only thing that can produce joyful obedience to God. Legalism produces bondage, fear and uncertainty, which place us in the grip of an all-consuming self-centeredness. Only grace frees us from the fearful preoccupation with self.

- A. God's love for us produces reciprocal love.

- B. This love for God produces a happy obedience.

- C. Good works are the inevitable fruits and evidence of God's grace.



- V. CHIEF AMONG GOOD WORKS ARE WORSHIP AND SUBMISSION**
The Love of God —→ Awe, Wonder —→ Worship —→ Submission
—→ Obedience and Service

VI. CONCLUSION