

Holiness and Good Works

May 6, 2018

1 Peter 1:14-19 ESV

14 As obedient children, **do not be conformed** (*sychēmatizō* - to conform to another's pattern in mind and character, to fashion alike) **to the passions of your former ignorance,**

15 **but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy** (*hagios* - sacred, consecrated, pure) **in all your conduct** (*anastrophe* - behavior, manner of life),

16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

17 And if you call on him as Father **who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,**

18 **knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,**

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ,** like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The precious blood of Jesus was shed for not only for our justification (the forgiveness of our sins), but also for our sanctification (purity and holiness of life).

1 John 1:9 ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just **to forgive** us our sins and **to cleanse** (*katharizo* - purge, make clean) us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

1 Corinthians 9:27 ESV

27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

3 **His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

4 **by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

Grace is not a substitute for, nor a release from, holiness. Rather, grace, and all it provides, is the consummation of holiness in our lives.

- Because of grace, holiness is no longer a standard we can never achieve, but is now a reality to be lived.

"The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people, not IN their sins, but FROM their sins. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord."

—Charles Spurgeon

Jude 1:3-5 ESV

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert (*metatithēmi* - pervert, exchange, change sides, transfer) the grace of our God into sensuality (*aselgeia* - unbridled lust, shamelessness, insolence) and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Romans 3:5-8 ESV

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)

6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world?

7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?

8 And why not do evil that good may come?--as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 6:1-2 ESV

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

The purpose for grace was never for us to continue in sin, but for us to be set free from sin.

Romans 6:15 ESV

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Galatians 5:13-14 ESV

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

1 Peter 2:16 ESV

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

The law of God transcends the transition from the Old to the New Covenant.

- ***The Law is not just for the Old Testament but not the New.***
- ***The Law brought restraint to sinful man in the Old but is fulfilled in the lives of the saints in***

the New.

- *We are free from the methodology of the Law, but not the requirement of the Law.*

Matthew 5:17-19 ESV

17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore whoever relaxes (*lyō - loosen, undo, dissolve, annul, declare invalid, break up, destroy*) one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 8:1-4 ESV

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Greater obedience and a deeper holiness is required in the New Covenant, not less.

- **Grace makes possible what used to be impossible - obedience to God's Word.**
- **Because grace reconciled us back to Father in a personal relationship, transformation, not only in behavior, but also in heart and character, is now possible.**
- **By grace our sins are forgiven, by grace our relationship with God is restored, by grace we have the power to deny ourselves and obey God.**

Matthew 5:17-48 ESV

17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them...

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

27 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed

adultery with her in his heart.

31 It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

38 You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

43 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Grace, by providing the forgiveness of sins, the cleansing from sins and restoring our relationship with God, empowers us to live holy lives and bear godly fruit.

A holy life bearing fruit is the very purpose and consummation of grace.

Romans 3:31 ESV

31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:11-15 ESV

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Titus 3:3-8 ESV

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Titus 3:14 ESV

14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.

Holiness is the eternal discriminator of who will be saved and who will be damned.

"Sanctification can scarcely be overemphasized today, for many people want Christ's salvation but show no interest in His call to pursue holiness. Whether in Jesus' day, in Puritan times, or in our own time, many souls are blind to the need for sanctification. Nevertheless, Scripture declares that without holiness, 'no man shall see the Lord' (Heb 12:14). Many assume that justification by faith in Christ does away with the need to be sanctified. Of such persons [John] Owen wrote, 'There is no imagination wherewith man is besotted more foolish, none so pernicious, as this, that persons not purified, not sanctified, not made holy, in this life, should afterwards be taken into that state of blessedness which consists in the enjoyment of God.'" —A Puritan Theology, Joel R. Beeke & Mark Jones, "The Puritans on Living in Christ" p. 528 (John Owen 1616 - 1683, Puritan Theologian)

John 15:1-2 ESV

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

This pruning is the process of sanctification of those who are pursuing God and His holiness, but are in need of further and ongoing purification.

John 15:5-6 ESV

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Romans 2:6-13 ESV

6 He will render to each one according to his works:

7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,

10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

11 For God shows no partiality.

12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 ESV

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear [KJV "terror"] of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

"If God is so concerned about holiness, and we have such need of it, then, dear friends, you will not feel at home in a holy heaven if you did not strive for holiness on earth. As Edwards said, every true believer yearns for a 'heaven of holiness.' If you show no interest for holy living now, you will show no interest for it in the life to come." —A Puritan Theology, Joel R. Beeke & Mark Jones, "The Puritans on Living in Christ" p. 535