

“The Sin of Works”

May 29th, 2022

Have you...

Ripped up a picture, but tried to tape it up again?

Broken up with someone, but come back later to get together?

Quit a job but tried to get it back again later?

With Paul this morning, in this case...

...What was destroyed should not be built back again.

The gospel of grace is the power of God for salvation.

It is worth fighting for our faith, our freedom in Christ, and the good fruit that it produces.

Paul has written this letter as an argument to the churches in Galatia to stay true to the gospel and not contaminate it with works.

He explains the divine process by which he got the Gospel.

He explains the decision not to circumcise Titus in Jerusalem.

He explained how he confronted Peter on his hypocrisy in making the Gentiles feel less than because they were not Jews.

Then he begins to address a common and relevant argument against grace...**is the grace of God an approval of sin?**

17 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!

If God justifies bad people, what is the point of being good?

Can't we do as we like and live as we please?” (Stott)

We all sin, but we all have put our faith in Christ...

...Does this mean Christ condones and approves of sin?

...Shouldn't Christ want us to keep laws so we stay good?

1. Keeping laws doesn't make you good.

It just means you are a good law keeper.

Just like getting A's doesn't mean you are ready for life.

You may just be good at doing school.

What matters is what has happened inside.

Goodness is an inward condition developed through life and sanctification as I become more like Christ from the inside out.

You may ask?

How can God love someone who is a sinner?

Why does God not bring judgment on all of the sin and sinners?

Because we all sin so that would be everyone!
...some sin is just more obvious than others...

- He is just as gracious to the outward sinner, who curses Him as to the inward sinner who quietly denies him.
- He is just as gracious to the outward sinner that stole from the bank as to the inward sinner who is unwilling to give to the Lord.
- He is just as gracious to the outward sinner that commits adultery as to the inward sinner that lusts in their heart.

Let's understand, different sin has different ramifications.

**Christ doesn't approve of any sin, outward or inward.
STILL His love for us isn't hindered by the sin within us.**

When we put our faith in Christ, He accepts us into the family.
And He no longer counts our sin against us.

We are right with God, AND yet... still growing in sanctification.

18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

What is he talking about destroying?

He destroyed the way to God through works or keeping the Law.
Paul needed to trust Christ, not his own works.

The bridge of works is blown up by God as a way to be right with Him.

1. **It is a transgression to try to get to God through works.**

A transgressor is someone who purposely steps over the line

If I build again what I know isn't the right way to God...
...I am becoming a transgressor...
...I know better but I am doing it anyway.

Legalists are actually more sinful because God has said that is not the way to Him, and yet they still pursue it.

God has said, I paid it on the cross, and they say not enough.

*They think they are good, even better than everyone else...
Others think they are good, even better than everyone else...
But God says they are not good, they are worse!*

From Genesis to Galatians, God declares what is good.

19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

The law is not dead, but Paul is.

The law is good, but none of us are good enough to keep it!

The Law declares that I am guilty. I agree, and I am dead.

I confess my guilt and my sin...

...I acknowledge the wages of sin is death.

...And I am dead to the law....

Paul goes on to explain it in some of the most powerful terms of all the scriptures in this letter...

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Christ died for my sin on the cross.

I agree with God that I am guilty and I am dead on that cross with Christ.

My old life is dead.

But Jesus didn't just die for our sin...

...He rose again for our justification.

Romans 4:25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

1. The law shows me my sin, but Jesus shows me His grace.

Who can actually receive God's grace?

Only those who confess their sin and repent towards God.

Your sin is paid for. The ticket is waiting in roll call...

...but if you don't come in humble confession...

...and admitting you can't pay for it, you won't get it.

So now just as Christ rose again in newness of life.

I am alive, born again in newness of life.

I don't live trying to keep the law.

I live trusting Jesus.

I live a new life in the power of His Spirit.

I live in freedom, pursuing a real and right relationship with God and others by faith because Christ is IN ME!

I confess my sin, I admit my guilt, I don't try to justify myself.

This is actually a very powerful spiritual kung fu!

- Satan tells me I am not good enough, I agree.
- Satan tells me I don't deserve God's grace, I agree.
- Satan tells me I shouldn't be serving God or accepted, I agree

All of that is true, and thankfully it doesn't matter!

What matters is that I have been justified by God himself.

I don't deny my sinfulness, I confess it, knowing that I am already loved, accepted and forgiven.

**There is nothing that you can do or say that will stop God's love for you.
There is no truth about you that could surface that would make God cancel you.**

1. [I live by faith on the grace side of life,](#)

I have died to the law and all of its requirements.
I have died to myself and all of my desires.
I have a new life by faith in Jesus, I am safe and secure in Him.

If you are saved and justified, but you sin...
...God still loves you and He is still for you...

He is against you sinning.
But He doesn't abandon you because you sin.

If you commit adultery, if you lie on your income tax, if you get in a fight with your neighbor, if you abuse a child...
... you are still justified and declared right with God by grace.

**God doesn't want you to sin because...
... there are consequences for sin...**

The result of sin is separation from friends, family, and fellowship.
Your sin may destroy many things in your life.

**My sin isolates me from God and others and yet...
... But God still loves me...and He wants me back with Him.**

Does that happen by keeping the law?

No, it happens because I trust Jesus of God's grace and love.

Romans 8:[33](#) Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. [34](#) Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. [35](#) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

And then Paul ends the chapter with this last sobering truth...

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."

If you don't come to God by grace through faith...
You are saying Christ died for nothing.

1. **The cross is the only bridge to a right relationship with God.**

Do you think Jesus would sweat drops of blood looking for another way for us to be saved, if we could be saved by just keeping some rules?

Seeking to be right with God by keeping the law is a direct insult to what Jesus suffered and died for on the cross.

He died on that cross and my old life died with him...

The new life He gave me, I live not by keeping the law, but by trusting my savior.