

**The Law That Leads Us to Christ**  
**Galatians 3:1–29**  
**November 2nd, 2025 | Jason Ogden**

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**I. The Law Cannot Finish What Grace Began**

“Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” — *Galatians 3:3*

- The Christian life begins by grace and continues by grace.
- Faith isn’t the warm-up; it’s the whole race.
- Every time we try to prove ourselves, we’re saying, “Jesus, thanks for getting me started—I’ll take it from here.”

**Core Truth:**

Faith begins where effort ends—because grace doesn’t need your help, only your surrender.

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**II. The Law Reveals Our Need for Christ**

“The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith... might be given to those who believe.” — *Galatians 3:22*

Paul describes the law with three vivid metaphors in *Galatians 3:22–25*:

- **A Jailor (v. 22)** — “*Scripture imprisoned everything under sin.*”  
It confines us under guilt, exposing the limits of our goodness.
- **A Tutor (v. 24)** — “*So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came.*”  
The Greek word **paidagōgos** referred to a household servant who supervised a child—strict, disciplinary, and temporary until maturity. The law trained the conscience but could never change the heart.
- **A Substitute Teacher (v. 25)** — “*Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*”

It kept order until the Real Teacher arrived—Christ Himself.

“*We no longer live under the tutor, but we remember the lessons he taught.*”

— **John Stott**

The law could show sin, but only Christ could save from it.

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**III. The Promise of Grace Came Before the Law**

“The law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God.” — *Galatians 3:17*

- God’s covenant with Abraham was a **promise**, not a performance plan.
- The law exposes sin; the promise provides salvation.
- Grace doesn’t erase our failures—it redeems them.

**Illustration – Adoption:**

When a child is adopted, that identity cannot be undone.

“*You can’t un-adopt a child.*”

When God calls you His own, that identity is sealed forever.

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**IV. The Law Leads Us to Christ — and Christ Leads Us Home**

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.” — *Galatians 3:26*

- The gospel doesn't just reconcile us to God—it reconciles us to one another.
- Grace restores us **into** family, not away from it.
- We grow up into the maturity of grace *together*—bearing one another's burdens, reminding each other who we are when we forget.

**Key Takeaway:**

Real freedom isn't found in isolation—it's found in belonging to a family where grace holds us together.

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**Reflection Verse**

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." — *Galatians 3:13*

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**Community Group Discussion Guide**  
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**1. Opening Reflection**

- What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?
- When you think of "law" and "grace," what emotions or memories come to mind?

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**2. Bewitched by Performance (vv. 1–3)**

- Paul asks, "Who has bewitched you?" What are some modern ways Christians fall under the "spell" of performance-based faith?
- Jason said, "Faith begins where effort ends." What does that look like in everyday life — in your work, your relationships, or your walk with God?
- How can we tell the difference between conviction from the Spirit and condemnation from the enemy?

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**3. Abraham's Story and Ours (vv. 6–9, 10–13)**

- Paul reaches back to Abraham to show that faith has always been the way to righteousness. Why do you think he uses Abraham as his example?
- Jason said, "The sins of the fathers really were passed down to the sons." How have you seen patterns — good or bad — repeat across generations in your own story?
- What encouragement do you draw from the truth that "God begins redemption right in the middle of the mess"?

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**4. The Curse and the Cross (vv. 10–13)**

- What does it mean that "Christ became a curse for us"?
- How does understanding this truth reshape how you think about guilt, shame, or striving for God's approval?
- Jason said, "You don't have to be the hero of your story. Jesus already is." How might believing that more deeply change the way you handle failure or weakness?

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### 5. Why Then the Law? (vv. 19–25)

- Paul uses three images for the law — **a jailor, a tutor, and a substitute teacher**. Which of those images helps you understand its purpose best, and why?
- How has God used His law (or conviction through His Word) to show you your need for Jesus?
- John Stott wrote, *“We no longer live under the tutor, but we remember the lessons he taught.”*  
What lessons from your “tutor” — the law — still help you walk in grace today?

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### 6. Growing Up in Grace (vv. 25–29)

- Jason said, “You’re not a child under a strict tutor anymore. The law’s job is finished. So grow up — grow up into the maturity of grace.”  
What does spiritual maturity in grace look like?
- How is maturity in grace different from independence or self-sufficiency?
- In what ways do you still live like you’re “under review” with God? What truth from Galatians 3 helps you rest instead of strive?

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### 7. Grace Restores Us Into Family (vv. 26–29)

- Paul ends with, “You are all one in Christ Jesus.”  
What does this mean for how we relate to people who are different from us — culturally, politically, or personally?
- Jason said, “Grace restores us into family, not away from it.”  
How can your group or our church embody that kind of grace together?
- In what practical ways can we help each other “grow up into the maturity of grace” as a community?