

NO ADDITIVES

Grace: According to Galatians



Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Week 1:

We live in a culture that believes adding things makes them better—but often additives only mask what is missing.

Highly processed food may taste convenient, but it creates deficiencies the body was never meant to manage, requiring supplements to compensate and medications to stabilize what was never nourished correctly.

The problem isn't the body—it's the alteration.

It was brought to my attention a couple days ago how strange it is that the FDA is one unified department and not two autonomous organizations.

Food and Drugs are designed by culture to work together. Implying, the food you eat will in time dictate the drugs you take.

Hear me - the undercurrent of our society will aim to substitute the real thing for the artificial thing.

The same is true in the flesh - the same is true in the Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:5 (KJV)

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Turn away from the artificial “form” because it will always lack the authority and power.

In the same way, *grace was never designed to be modified*.

The moment we add effort, rules, or qualifiers, we dilute its power and create spiritual deficiencies that require constant regulation to sustain.

Grace must be received as God intended it— not improved (so we think) by man, but trusted in its original design - hear me... the word still works.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (ESV)

You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.

Grace is not an accessory to the Christian faith; it is its foundation.

To misunderstand grace is to misunderstand God, the cross, and ourselves.

Grace is the only way sinners are justified, sons are formed, and *holiness is sustained*.

When **grace is diluted, Christ is diminished;**
When grace is distorted, the gospel is replaced with effort.

**The strength of grace is not that it excuses sin,
but that it overcomes it without empowering the flesh.**

We must study grace because it guards us from legalism,
rescues us from self-righteousness,
and anchors our obedience in love rather than fear.

Legalism without **grace is not an anomaly —
it is **inevitable**.**

And legalism is not confined to commands
imposed by leaders; it also emerges when
we create laws of distinction, defining
righteousness by what *we refuse*.

To say, “*I do not do what they do because they are
legalistic,*” can itself become a subtler form of legalism.

Legalism is not one-sided and it is a neutral term that is
meant to define a life apart from the grace of God.

A life that does not stay rooted in Grace will
eventually speak legalistic language.

Colossians 2:20-23 (NLT)

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.

Grace does not eliminate conviction—**it relocates its source.**

The middle road is not compromise; **it is love.**

And love, formed by grace,
writes God’s will upon the heart.

Our obedience is no longer rooted in
“I was told,” but in **“I was called.”**

Grace does not weaken faith—it perfects it.

Grace grants you the right to stand in a posture of
STRENGTH

Why dissect GRACE out of the book of Galatians?

The text of Galatians sits at the Crosspoint of Tension for the ministry of Paul - the tension is threefold... you have Law, Promise, and Grace.

Exegetical Walk (Galatians 1)

1. Grace Is Received by Revelation, Not Inheritance (Gal. 1:1–5)

Paul opens the letter by defending *his apostleship*, not his **morality**. “Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father...” (1:1)

This is not ego. This is theology.
Grace **cannot be processed through secondhand authority.**

He is saying, “*Hey - I am qualified to teach on this not because man put me here, not because some Bishop prayed for me... I am here because the Lord anointed me.*”

This is vitally important to comprehend...

If grace comes from:

- tradition,
- culture,
- leaders,
- systems,

...it will eventually be reshaped by them.

Grace must originate **vertically** (the Lord) or it will be edited **horizontally** (Humanity).

Notice how Paul defines grace immediately:

“who gave himself for our sins to **deliver** us from the present evil age” (1:4)

The grace of God is predicated on the fact that the Lord wrapped Himself in flesh and died for our sins - it is not built upon our effort, rather His sacrifice **unto our deliverance**.

Grace is not forgiveness alone—
it is **rescue, it is deliverance**.

It does not merely pardon sin;
it **extracts us from a system of sin**.

2. Grace Is Threatened by Subtraction *and* Addition (Gal. 1:6–9)

This is the most aggressive language Paul uses anywhere.

“I am astonished that you are so *quickly deserting* him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel” (1:6)

Notice the phrase: “**the grace of Christ**”

Grace is not an attribute alone—it is **Christ-defined**.

Paul says the danger is not abandoning Christ outright, but **altering the gospel slightly**.
“not that there is another one” (1:7)

Here is the key:

Grace is not destroyed by **rejection**

Grace is destroyed by **revision**

Adding to grace is not growth.

Additives bring destruction by substitution.

That's why Paul says:
"let him be accursed" (1:8–9)

This is not about tone.
This is about **preservation**.

Grace cannot survive additives because additives imply **insufficiency**.

3. Grace Is Processed Through Fear of God, Not Approval of Men (Gal. 1:10)

This verse is a hinge for the entire book.

"If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Grace does not thrive where we are trying to be approved, look right, or prove something.

Legalism always grows in environments where **approval matters more than truth**.

Grace requires freedom from people before it produces freedom from sin.

4. Grace Is Learned by Encounter, Not Conditioning (Gal. 1:11–17)

Paul is explicit:

“the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel” (1:11)

“but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:12)

This is essential:

Law can be taught

Grace must be **revealed**

That’s why Paul includes his past.

“I persecuted the church... and tried to destroy it” (1:13)

Grace is processed when you realize:

God did not wait for your alignment to call you.

“he who had set me apart before I was born...
was pleased to reveal his Son to me” (1:15–16)

Grace is not God reacting to repentance.

Grace is God **interrupting destiny**.

5. Grace Produces Independence From Systems Without Producing Isolation (Gal. 1:18–24)

Paul did not immediately submit his gospel for approval.
“I did not immediately consult with anyone” (1:16)

That does not mean he rejected community.
It means grace must be **settled internally before it is negotiated externally**.

Eventually, the church glorified God *because* of Paul—not because he conformed.
“they glorified God because of me” (1:24)

Grace, when rightly processed, does not seek validation—it **produces fruit that speaks for itself**.

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I. WHEN GRACE IS FRUSTRATED

“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

(Gal. 2:21, KJV)

1. Grace Can Be Frustrated — But Not Defeated

Paul does not say grace disappears.
He says it can be **nullified in effect**.

The Greek word *NULLIFY* means:

- to set aside
- to invalidate
- to treat as unnecessary

Grace is not weak—but **it refuses to function alongside human contribution**.

Grace will not share the stage with flesh.

The moment righteousness becomes *assisted*,
grace becomes *offended*.

The Bible never denies *effort*.

It denies **effort as a source of righteousness**.

That distinction is everything.

Sanctification does not ask, “Are you trying?”
It asks, **“What is empowering your trying?”**

Two categories must never be confused:

Effort that attempts to produce righteousness →
law, flesh, curse

Effort that expresses received righteousness →
faith, Spirit, fruit

Same *activity*.

Different *origin*.

2. Law Was Never the Means—It Was the Mirror

“The flesh reveals the purpose of the law.”

Paul says the same elsewhere:

Romans 3:20 – *“By the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

Romans 7:7 – *“I had not known sin, but by the law.”*

The law was never designed to produce righteousness.

It was designed to **expose inability**.

Law does not empower obedience.

Law diagnoses disobedience.

Grace does not feed on human strength—

Grace feeds on acknowledged deficiency.

3. If Law Can Finish What Grace Started, Christ Died Unnecessarily

Paul's argument is brutal and non-negotiable:

If righteousness can come **through law-keeping**

Then the cross was **redundant**

And Christ died **without necessity**

There is no middle ground.

Either Christ is sufficient,
or human effort is.

You cannot partially trust Christ without fully denying Him.

SANCTIFICATION IS NOT SELF-IMPROVEMENT —
IT IS COOPERATION

*“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do...”*
— Philippians 2:12–13

This is the *clearest* sanctification text in Scripture.

Notice the order:

God works **in you**

You work **out** what He worked in

Sanctification is not *working toward* holiness
It is *working from* holiness.

We do not strive to become holy.

We strive **because** we have been made holy.

EFFORT IS REQUIRED — BUT NEVER CREDITED

1. The New Testament Never Removes the Will

Grace does not eliminate the human will.
It **liberates it**.

Before grace:

Will is enslaved to sin (Rom 6)

After grace:

Will is empowered toward obedience (Rom 8)

Effort exists because **love must choose**.

Obedience without choice is not holiness—it is automation.

2. Effort Is the Arena, Not the Author

Scripture never says:

“God will obey for you”

“God will resist temptation for you”

But it *always* says:

God supplies power

God supplies desire

God supplies endurance

Grace provides **ability**.

Effort provides **agreement**.

HOW WORKS FUNCTION IN FAITH

(THIS IS CRITICAL)

A. Works Do Not Validate God — They Reveal Faith

James 2 is often weaponized against Paul.

But James never contradicts him.

“I will show thee my faith by my works.” (James 2:18)

Works are not the **cause** of righteousness

They are the **evidence** of it.

Faith that does not move the body
has not yet possessed the heart.

B. Works Are Measured by Dependence, Not Output

This is where religion collapses.

God does not measure works by:

- Quantity
- Visibility
- Difficulty

He measures by **source**.

“Without Me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Two people can perform the same action:

- One from self-reliance → dead work
- One from trust → living fruit

Same deed.

Different origin.

Different verdict.

V. THE ROLE OF THE LAW IN SANCTIFICATION (PROPERLY PLACED)

The law no longer:

- Condemns
- Justifies
- Threatens

But it still:

- Instructs
- Defines
- Reveals God's character

The law becomes a **map**, not a courtroom.

The Spirit does not abolish God's standards—
He **writes them internally** (Jer 31, Heb 8).

So sanctification is not:

Law-keeping to be righteous

But:

Spirit-empowered alignment with
righteousness already given

VI. WHAT “RIGHT WORKS” ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE

Right works always have these marks:

1. They Flow From Identity, Not Fear

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear...” (Rom 8:15)

Fear-based obedience is still law-driven.

2. They Depend on Grace Mid-Action

Right works pray while acting.

They lean while walking.

They repent quickly.

Flesh resists failure.

Faith runs to grace.

3. They Produce Humility, Not Confidence in Self

If your obedience makes you proud,
it is not sanctification—it is self-righteousness.

True holiness always says:

“Yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” (1 Cor 15:10)

VII. SO HOW DOES ONE *ACTUALLY* WALK SANCTIFICATION?

Here is the **biblical process**, distilled:

Believe rightly — righteousness is already given

Yield daily — present the body (Rom 12:1)

Resist actively — sin still must be resisted (Heb 12:4)

Rely continually — prayer is dependence, not weakness

Repent quickly — failure does not revoke sonship

Obey freely — not to earn love, but because you have it

Sanctification is not climbing to God.

It is learning how to walk with Him without letting go.