



The Marriage of Grace

Focus We were under (“married to”) the law, but are now married to Christ (under grace). Grace has the power to *overcome* sin, but the law does not.

Open Who was your favorite coach or teacher? Why?

Read Romans 7:1–6 likens our relationship with the law to a marriage. When one spouse dies, the other is released from the laws of marriage and is freed to marry another. Likewise, we have been freed from the law and are now under grace, “married to” Jesus.

The law is a reflection of God’s moral standards and desires and will not pass away. But we are no longer *judged* by the law. We live by grace through faith, believing that Jesus’ death on the cross has forever satisfied the requirements of the law on our behalf and has given us right standing with God.

- Talk**
1. Read Hebrews 7:1–6. (Note: Read it in more than one translation, if possible.)
 - a) According to this passage, why are we no longer under (“married to”) the law?
 - b) What do verses 4 and 6 tell us we are enabled to do because of our new marriage to Jesus?
 2. Would you say you were raised in a grace-based or legalistic church or home environment? Do you think your upbringing has made it easier or more difficult to live by grace and not under the law?

3. Read Galatians 3:1–3. Many people behave as if they are saved through grace perfected by their works. Why is this school of thought wrong?
4. *“Most people are trying to impress their new husband [Jesus] by keeping a good relationship with the old one [the law]”* ~ Pastor Robert Morris

How do we do that? What types of attitudes, behaviors, etc., would be indicators that this is happening in your life?

Live

1. Why is love “the strongest governing power in the world,” and not the law (rules)?
2. On a piece of paper, make two columns. Label one column “love” and the other “law.” In the columns, write down the differences between being governed by love and governed by law/rules. Be specific. How does one behave differently? What attitudes are different? What is the motivator behind each? Think of as many things to compare and contrast as you can.
3. Prayerfully look over the chart you’ve created. In general, do you behave as one governed by love or one governed by law? How so?

Pray

If you determined that you, even as a believer, are living under the law or being governed by the law to some degree, take a few minutes to talk to the Lord about it. Repent for embracing a wrong belief system of living by works instead of under grace. Ask Him to empower you to “serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter” (Romans 7:6b NKJV).