

A CONDENSATION OF LAW AND GRACE

1 Law of God

All men are born with a 'moral consciousness'--even the most corrupt group has certain standards of right and wrong that reflect their value ~~of~~ system (e.g. the Mafia, Manson Hippie commune). And every man who ever lived in the world falls short of his own value system. This is God's revelation of conscience which is given to every man and is the first of his three revelations of law.

2 Law of Moses

The second revelation is the law of Moses which was given to the nation of Israel and the third law is the law of the New Testament which was given in the Sermon on the Mount and in the teachings of Jesus, where he set forth the righteous requirements of God.

3 Law of Christ

Every man who ever lived makes a response to these revelations of God's law, because either consciously or unconsciously he sees that it is impossible for him to come up to God's standards. His responses can be put in one of two categories which we will call Plan A or Plan B.

Plan A has three options for man. The first is that he goes into open moral rebellion and declares that there is no God and if there is one--no one can know Him--there is no judgement, no hell, or anything. This is one reason why so many intellectuals so mishandle the Bible. You can bring a new fact of history to an intellectual and he will look at it with objectivity because if it is true it will have no particular effect on him. But, if the Bible is true, a man has to humble himself, receive Christ into his life and make a whole new way of life. His way out: MAKE SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE.

The second option in Plan A is for man to head into human righteousness. He concentrates on the idea that he is better than most of the people around him and reasons that on this basis he is a good and moral person. "Never look at God"--only around himself for his standards. Many of our churches are headed into this option and their whole structure is good works, social involvement and no basis for their theology except that he is not really totally sinful and that he can do something for God. This leads to legalism where man says he can keep the laws of God and

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Third option
3

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bases his approach to God not on faith but on his works and his own efforts. This moves his to traditionalism which is realizing that he ¹can't keep God's rules completely.

He selects the keepable laws and adds his own religious tradition to them. This leads to exclusiveness or religious righteousness like the pharissess. (In other words, this is our church, here are the rules--if you keep all the rules, you are God's man.

~~End~~ GOD DIDN'T SAY THAT, ~~BUDDY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ANYWAY?!~~) These are the three options of Plan A and the ~~tragedy~~ tragedy is that as long as man responds that way it is a bum trip and he ends up in hell.

Plan B is the response that is God's plan for man. God is perfect and man is imperfect; God says that only the perfect can be in His kingdom so He condemns All the sins of man on One perfect sacrifice: Jesus Christ. ~~Plan~~ Plan B begins with the righteousness condemnation, not of a sinner, but of the Saviour. God cannot perform an ~~un~~unrighteous act. What made this act a righteous act was not that Christ had sinned. He didn't. But Christ received all our sins at the cross and at that time God judged our ~~sin~~ sins in him. Therefore Christ's Sacrifice on the cross is God's revelation of Grace and the way of forgiveness to man.

The response of the one who believed God's revelation to this sacrifice is twofold: First He trusts God and believes in the efficiency (complete truth) of the sacrifice the second he accepts it. As a result he is "born again" or to rephrase it, he is seen perfect in God's eyes and has eternal life with God. John puts it simply when he says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that Whosoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life." Plan B's only rule: Believe the Father and Accept what the Son did.

So we see how God works: He created a perfect man who chose to live separate from himself. God can handle the necessary step to reestablish a personal relationship with man which is perfect. In other words He does all for man and man is free to believe or ~~not~~ not to believe Him. That's what life is all about: Plan A or Plan B.

THE END!!!

