

(190623) What's Wrong with Me and How to Fix It (P1)

INTRO:

Distinction between Law and Grace (gospel)—getting grace.

Martin Luther: “The level of maturity of a christian is directly proportional to his ability to distinguish between Law and Grace (gospel)”

Grow in grace:

2Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ...

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to **the gospel of the grace of God.**

Heresy warning:

It is impossible to preach true biblical grace without appearing heretical to the law-locked hearts...

Mat 5:17 “**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

Or to live free in grace without appearing heretical to the law-locked hearts...

Mat 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘**Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!**’ But wisdom is justified by her children.”

The grace of God is, by nature, counter-intuitive, scandalous, and flat out offensive to the economy of merit in which we live...

Let the legalist in you be challenged:

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Your life depends on it:

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40** But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Grace will always be persecuted by the legalists—by the legalist in you (in me):

Gal 4:29 ... as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, **even so it is now.**

PRAYER:

Invite the HS to teach us, to open our eyes to grace...

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; **24** And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Ps 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. **8** They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. **9** For with You is the fountain of life; **In Your light we see light.**

THE PROBLEM:

What's wrong with me..?

Why is it important to know... The broken ankle and the eye drops...

Mat 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, **for He will save His people from their sins."**

What is sin..?

Living outside of God's design...

At core level we were made to be in love with God and to walk with Him...

Why we sin—why do we tend to deviate from God's design..?

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short (g5302. ὑστερέω hystereō: to suffer want, to be devoid of, to be destitute) **of the glory of God,**

Special note:

Don't confuse the condition of 'sin' with the action of sinning. The action of sinning is a fruit of the fact that we are sinners—that we have sin. We are born sinners, therefore we sin... We don't become sinners when we sin. We sin because we are sinners.

It is a heart problem...

By default, we are idolaters—we are enslaved by wrong affections, we love wrong things...

Obviously dangerous things like:

-drugs, alcohol, illegitimate sexual pleasure—adultery

Not so obviously dangerous things like:

-legitimate sexual pleasure, popularity, success, honor, the praise of others

Anything that you MUST have in order to be happy, other than God Himself, is an idol.!!

Let me show you an illustration:

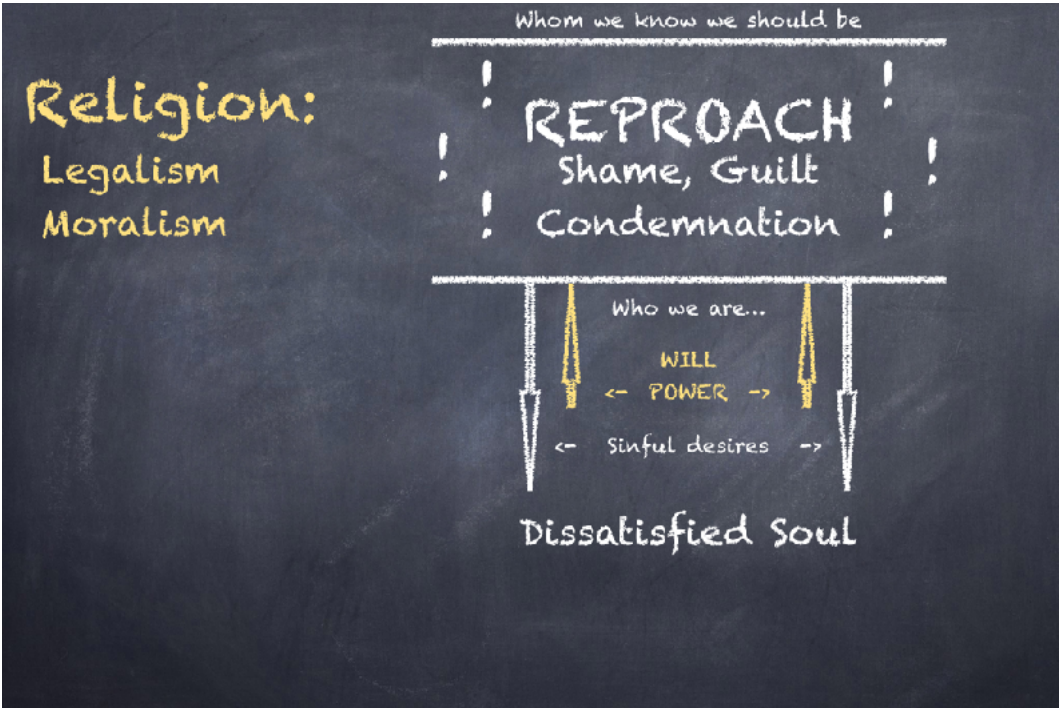
THE HUMAN CONDITION



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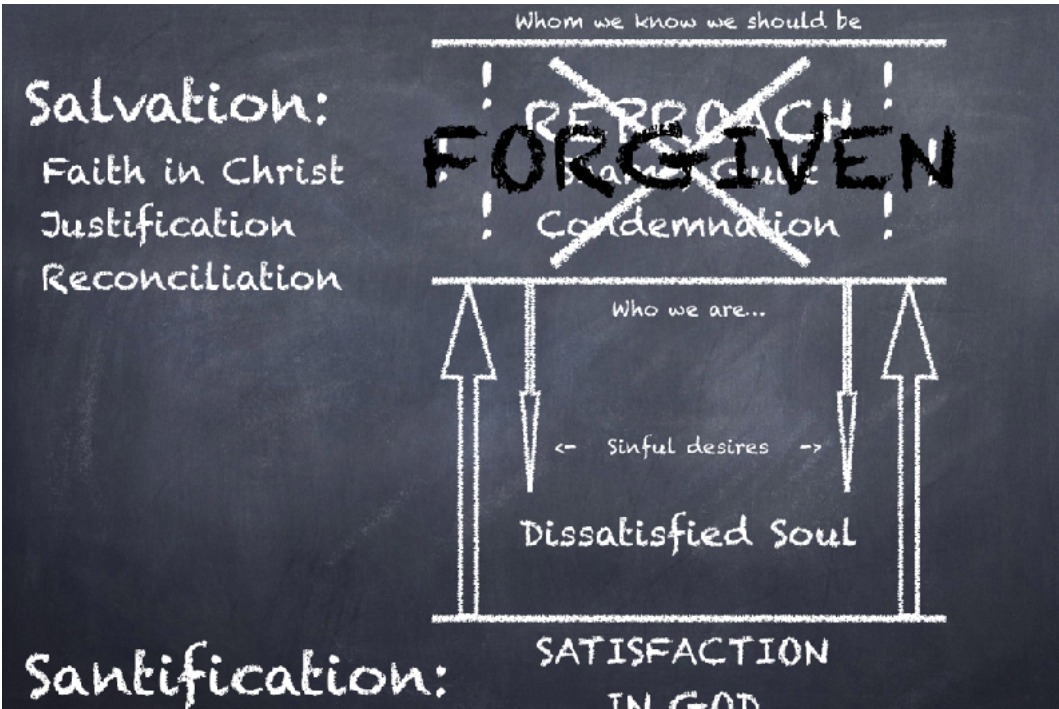
THE SOLUTION: Men's vs God's

MEN'S SOLUTION



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GOD'S SOLUTION



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CONCLUSION:

So if the problem is a dissatisfied soul, where can we find satisfaction.?!

Eph 3:19 ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

What could you possibly need or lack if your soul was filled with **all the fulness of God**.?!

ZERO — NADA !!

According to Paul, according to the Bible, according to God Himself what fills the soul with all the fulness of God..?

Eph 3:17 ... that you, being rooted and grounded **in love**, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— **19 to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

What fills the soul with all the fulness of God..? The knowledge of the love of God.!!

The more you love God, the more it becomes second nature to obey His commandments—His law...

1John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

The expelling power of new affection—the Puritans

The battle is for your heart—whatever we love will determine the course of our life...

Pro 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

That's why Jesus emphatically said:

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**'

The promise of God is to give us new hearts:

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; **I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

The greatest commandment—the SHEMA:

Mat 22:37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the **first and great commandment.**

Augustine:

How do I know the will of God? “Fall in love with God and do whatever you want!”

Ps 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

The solution is falling in love with God—repentance alone is NOT enough!!

Jesus said over and over: And I give them eternal life, eternal life, eternal life...

The goal of repentance is not going to heaven, but the knowledge of God—eternal life...

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father** except through Me.

SELAH

How do we fall in love with God?:

Rom 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, **because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

1.- Falling in love with God is act of God—you're utterly dependent on Him to work in you...

God foretold this to be the heart of the New Covenant:

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26 I will give you a new heart** and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

David knew it:

Psa 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

It's a New Creation and only God creates:

2Cor 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So, “humbly” confess your condition to God and ask Him, and pursue Him, until He opens your eyes to His loveliness—to His glory:

2Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image **from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

“Humbly” confess your condition to God and ask Him, and pursue Him, to until He opens your eyes to His love for you:

1John 4:19 We love Him **because He first loved us**.

-The knowledge of love begets love.

-The knowledge of the unconditional, never-stopping, never-giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love of God IS the saving/sanctifying factor!!

Steve Brown: “The problem with christians today is that we go to the cross to get forgiveness, but we don’t stay there to be loved.!!”

How do we fall in love with God?

1.- By confessing and asking God to work in us...

2.- By believing the gospel—not by keeping the law.

John 6:28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” **29** Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, **that you believe** in Him whom He sent.”

By believing (saturating your heart, mind and soul) with the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the grace of God that says:

-YOU ARE LOVED—you are fully known and unconditionally loved—there’s nothing you can do to make God love you more and there’s nothing you can do to make God love you less..!

You can live under the banner that says: **YOU ARE LOVED.!!**

Jude 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

John 15:9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.**

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

How do we fall in love with God?

By believing (saturating your heart, mind and soul) with the gospel of the grace of God that says:

-You don’t have to be perfect—Christ came to be perfect, so you wouldn’t have to be..!

John 19:30 ... “It is finished!” ...

By believing (saturating your heart, mind and soul) with the gospel of the grace of God that says:

-You don’t need anything that you don’t already have—you can stop pursuing idols because God already gave you, in His Son, everything you would ever need for everlasting joy..!

2Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; **10** and **you are complete in Him, ...**

How do we fall in love with God?

By believing (saturating your heart, mind and soul) with the gospel of the grace of God that says:

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

-You can rest, child, you can rest in your Father's love—in the identity that He gives you as a Beloved Child of God—**you are NO LONGER an orphan.!!**

Special note:

We are born orphans; not knowing who we are and, unless Jesus saves us, we spend our lives in the enslaving and futile pursuit of forging our own identity—trying to save ourselves...

1John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God! ...**

-**Child, you don't have to be afraid—you have a Daddy that loves you and takes care of you!** Everything that you go through is God-ordained—everything that you go through in life comes from the hands of a loving Father!!

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Stop acting like an orphan!

This is how you get filled with the Holy Spirit:

-Col 3:16 vs Eph 5:18

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

Eph 5:18 ... be filled with the Spirit, **19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**

One sermon:

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit **that we are children of God,**

The power is in the gospel:

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, ...**

Work it out:

Phi 2:12 ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Work it out by keeping yourselves in the love of God—**Jude 1:21** keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

By constantly preaching ourselves the gospel of the grace of God—**Rom 8:16**

By meditating on what God has done for you more than what you have to do for God—**rejoice in the Lord (Phi 3:1).**

Phi 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord **always.** Again I will say, rejoice!

FINAL EXHORTATION:

Are you just going to let the law of God manage your sinful heart or are going to let gospel of the grace of God fix your heart—give you a new heart.?!

The knowledge of the unconditional, never-stopping, never-giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love of God IS the savings/sanctifying factor!!

Hos 6:3 Let us know, **Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.** His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, ...

2Cor 3:17 ...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Gal 5:1 (ASV) For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.

Do you want to be an agent of freedom—of real change in others:
-remind them that they are loved!!

Jesus died on the cross to pay for all our sins so we could know His love—
salvation!!

FINAL PRAYER:

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