

The Grace Perversion

Religion and tradition initiated the persecution in Jesus' day. Jesus ministered a different message and the religious leaders of the day did not like it. It sounded like blasphemy to them. They did not recognize the truth of his message because they were so bound by their traditions.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Religion came against the relationship that Jesus had with His Father. Jesus knew who he was and what he was called to do. He said that we would experience the same persecution.

V 13-16 we are the light of the world. We are loved unconditionally because the cross was a success. This is the concept that will set the world free, but a religious perversion is coming against that concept.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **14** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven

Religion is coming against our right to be one with God and our right to call ourselves sanctified.. Who do you think you are being a man (sinner) that you could be one with God?

The world is not the problem. It is a subtle perversion of the truth that is coming from among those who claim to have the truth. It is a form of godliness that has no power of deliverance because it is based on the work of man's hands rather than upon the work of God's hands.

Jude 1:1 *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: 2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.*

We have been sanctified (**made Holy**) by God.
That sanctification has been preserved through the cross.
Walking in the revelation of this maintains our peace and keeps us walking in the love of God.

We need guard this truth and continually be on the alert because Members within own circles have been deceived and are going back to the principles of the law which in a subtle way denies that the cross was enough. They are preaching a mixed Gospel that contains elements of both covenants, thinking it is the truth. This mixture reintroduces the condemnation and bondage that Jesus delivered us from,

Jude 1:3 *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (**carnality**), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

When we hear the term ungodly men we immediately think of people who are immoral, people who do things that we define as sinful acts. The word ungodly simple means they don't think like God. They entertain opposing principles.

1 and 2 Peter very closely parallel the words in Jude.

There are false prophets among us, within our own body of believers. Do they think they are false prophets? I don't think so! They are deceived and are promoting a Gospel that is a mixture of law and grace because it sounds right.

2Peter 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

This is not talking about weird people promoting strange stuff. It is talking about people among us who knew the truth who have reverted back to law thinking.

2Peter 2:19 *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption : for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*

V 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. **V 21** *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them

Perverse things according to the Greek dictionary, are distorted misinterpretations of the truth.

Grace was designed to deliver us from the things of the world. It was designed to set us free from the things of this world.

Galatians 1:3 *Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

Those who knew grace became involved in both believing and promoting a perversion of it; this is not talking about false religions who don't promote Jesus. It is talking about people who started out with grace.

6 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

There are false teachers among us that we are not aware of. I don't think the false teachers are aware that their teachings are false either because a deceit is not easily recognized. A deception has enough truth mixed with it to make it sound right.

8 *But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*

Any deviation or mixture of grace and law will produce the same curse that the law does because no one can measure up to the standards and obligations that it holds people accountable to.

Gal 2:4 *And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:*

Law thinking nullifies the work of the cross.

Galatians 2:21 *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

BE careful! It is a subtle way to steal our freedom! The most dangerous enemies are the enemies of our own household!

Gal 3:3 *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Gal 3:10 *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

Why would we think that the law could produce any better results for us than it did for people who were bound under the Old Covenant?

Gal 4:21 *Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?*

We need to remember that the law will kill us and we need to completely purge it from our thinking because no one can measure up to the standards of the law!

Gal 4:30 *Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.*

We need to diligently guard our freedom!

Gal 5:1 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

Focussing on our performance sounds so right, but it will always produce bondage!

If you tell a child not to touch something, the chances are, when you walk out of the room, they will touch it! That is the way the law works. It will suck you into it. *Living under and promoting law produces predictable results!*

Gal 5:19 *Now The fruits of the flesh, the law are these: the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

It is impossible for people who are law conscience to experience the sense of righteousness peace and joy that the Holy Spirit provides.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law and the fruits of being led by the spirit are totally different.

Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

How do we deal with people overtaken in a fault? Do we minister the law or the Spirit? The law will cause them to feel even more separated from God, but the Spirit will bring draw them into the very presence of God. **2 Corinthians 3:6**

Gal 6:1 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

We are the light of the world. What are we ministering to the world, the letter, or the Spirit? Are we ministering true grace or are we ministering the perversion that will take them back into bondage?

Are we salt that has lost its savor or lights that have been hidden under a bushel? We hear all kinds of talk about the antichrist. Again, we think this is some guy that will rise up from among the heathens and conquer the world. The spirit of antichrist has been around since the days of the apostles!

1 John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

1 John 2:22 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

We would say that Antichrist denies that Jesus was the Christ. That certainly does not pertain to Christians or Christianity! That is the very thing we embrace! Actually we say we embrace it, but in a very subtle way we don't believe that the cross was a success because we are more aware of our sins than ever. This is why Jesus said he would spew the lukewarm water out of his mouth! It is so deadly because it is so subtle! We need to abide in the truth we heard in the beginning! By one sacrifice we have been perfected forever! Jesus was enough!

24 *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

All these things have been written to us because we have an enemy who is trying to destroy us and God wants us to recognize his tactics!

26 *These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.*

Another thing an antichrist promotes, whether he realizes it or not, is that Jesus did not come in the flesh and of course that does not pertain in any way to Christians because we know Jesus, even though he was God, came into this earth as a baby in a flesh body.

2John 1:7 *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

Sounds so not like us, but why would he say hold on to the first principles? **2 John 1:6** Why would he tell us to hold on to the things which we have gained? **2 John 1:8**

The antichrist denies that Jesus came in the flesh. Jesus was one with his Father. He manifested God in his flesh. Jesus tells us that we are one with him; that we are one with The Father. God manifests himself in our flesh! The Pharisees told Jesus that it was blasphemy for him to say that he and the father were one because Jesus, being a man, would be saying that he was equal to God.

The enemy is using religion to challenge our right to say that God is in our flesh because that is the very principle that the Gospel is established on. Who do we think we are that we are that we could possibly say that we are one with God? After all we are only human! If we can be deceived into thinking that man has no right to say that he is one with God, then the picture of God that we manifest to the world will not correctly display who God is and how he sees man!

The deception reminds us that we are just sinners saved by grace and that there us a huge gulf that separates man from God. We say we believe we are one with God but in actuality we don't act like we believe it at all. If you would have told me a few years ago that I would believe what I believe today, I would have certainly called it

blasphemy because I had a slave mentality and I was deceived with the very delusion that we have been talking about. It is subtle and it is a killer.

The whole earth is waiting for the sons of God to manifest themselves. We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. God is manifesting himself to the people of this earth and he has come in our flesh to do it!

Jesus was the image of the invisible God. All the fulness of God dwells in Him. He delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His son. He made us worthy to be partakers with him. **Colossians 1:13**

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled **22** In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Paul tells to continue in what we have heard and not to be moved away from the hope of the gospel **Colossians 1:23** which is: Christ in you, the hope of glory. **V27**

1Ti 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Jesus was the image of the invisible God, and that image is displayed in us. Take heed! Don't be moved away from the hope of the Gospel!