

## Unit 3 Teaching Outline

### **Audience**

This is going to be a group bible study project for adults. The group normally ranges from 10 people to 15. These 10 sessions are going to allow us to learn more about God's grace and what it means for us as Christians. There will be questions for the group throughout the lessons as well as videos about main topics. I will be writing the lessons using two books the first being Set Free! : What the Bible Says about Grace and the second being another Jack Cottrell book titled 13 Lessons on Grace.

### **Introduction Video**

[https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/law/?utm\\_source=web\\_social\\_share&medium=shared\\_video](https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/law/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video)

### **Outline**

- I. Our Right to Freedom
  - A. Two Types of Freedoms
    - 1. Sinful
    - 2. Destructive
    - 3. Good
    - 4. Essential
- II. What are False Freedoms?
  - A. Freedoms that are seen to be contrary to the Gospel
  - B. Absolute Autonomy
    - 1. Sometimes known as Self-Rule
    - 2. The desire to be free from all outside authority, including God's
  - C. Absolute Freedom
    - 1. This is the freedom promised by Satan to Eve in the Garden of Eden
    - 2. Pepsi Jingle
      - a. "There's a feeling around, it's Americas sound, Pepsi people: feeling free! Free to choose a new way. Free to stand up and say: You be you, and I'll be me!
    - 3. Wide consensus in America that this is the type of freedom that God wanted for us
    - 4. What does it mean to be a free moral creature?
      - a. We are free to choose to do right or wrong
      - b. God alone has the authority to decide what is right and wrong
    - 5. Man thinking we alone can decide what is right or wrong leads us into a false sense of freedom
    - 6. This type of thinking can only lead to one thing, Condemnation
  - D. Because of our freedom we have the freedom to disobey
    - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> False Concept
      - a. Christians are free from the obligation to follow God's laws
        - i. Many Christians believe that because we are no longer under the "law" of the Old Testament that we no longer need to obey those laws.
    - 2. Antinomianism
      - a. the belief that Christians, by virtue of divine grace, are freed not only from biblical law and church-prescribed behavioral norms, but also from all moral law:
      - b. Martin Luther debunked this in his The Antinomian Disputations

- i. Luther contrasts antinomianism with the true gospel, stressing that law is good and drives us to Christ and to daily repentance.
- 3. Since we are justified by faith doesn't that mean the old laws don't apply?
  - a. Romans 6: 1-2
    - i. "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"
- 4. What is semi-autonomy?
  - a. The belief that we can ignore the little things as long as we are faithfully following the more important laws of God
  - b. Examples (Ask group about what they would consider examples of this)
    - i. Speeding because the established speed limit maybe inconvenient
    - ii. Taking longer paid breaks at work then what is in policy
- 5. But didn't Jesus condemn the Jewish Pharisees for being so focused on the little things rather than the more impactful matters of the law?
  - a. Yes , but as we read in Matthew 23:23 Jesus gives us a better understanding
    - i. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and [a]cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."
- 6. What is legalism?
  - a. It's not law-keeping
  - b. It is depending on law-keeping in order to be "right" with God

### III. Being Free from the Law

#### A. Freedom from Condemnation

- 1. We are free from the condemnation of the law
  - a. Condemnation is to pronounce to be guilty; sentence to punishment
  - b. Because of justification from God we are no longer guilty
- 2. We put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ in turn He carries our condemnation for us
- 3. Galatians 3:13
  - a. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"
- 4. Hymn about our great freedom
  - a. Free from the law, O happy condition, Jesus hath bled, and there is remission; Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall, Grace hath redeemed us once for all. Now we are free – there's no condemnation, Jesus provides a perfect salvation; "Come unto Me," O hear His sweet call, Come, and He saves us once for all. ("Hymn: Free from the Law—Oh, Happy Condition")

#### B. Freedom from depending on Law-Keeping

- 1. God provided it through an alternative law via Grace
- 2. Someone who still believes their day to day obedience to the law is what gets them accepted by God is still being deceived.
- 3. A person who thinks they need to be "Good Enough" for heaven and God, but know's he isn't will be filled with anxiety, doubt, fear and despair
  - a. Question for Group
    - i. Do you think the anxiety you have is because of this?
- 4. Justification by Faith
  - a. Frees us both of deception and despair
- 5. Romans 10:4
  - a. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

6. Reminder for all Christians
  - a. When we put our trust in Christ, we are confessing that we are not able to be good enough for Heaven; but we also cease to worry about it.
- C. Legalistic Motives
  1. Christ freed us from the legalistic motives for obedience
  2. Question for group
    - a. Why does anyone want to work so hard?
    - b. Why should we persevere in good works?
    - c. What motivates you?
  3. I ask these questions to state that when living under the law we are driven by fear of punishment and the desire for a reward.
  4. Legalistic motives cause us to ask "What is in it for me?"
    - a. Example
      - i. Many military couples marry just to be able to get more money.
  5. What are true Christians driven by?
    - a. Grateful Love for God and His creation
  6. John 14:15
    - a. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
  7. Galatians 5:6
    - a. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love."
  8. Christian life begins in faith
  9. Why does this life work?
    - a. Because love is the strongest motive and is totally self-less and is Christ-centered and neighbor-centered motive
  10. Romans 3:28
    - a. "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works [b]of the Law."
  11. \*Take Home Statement\*
    - a. Jesus paid it all; nothing we do adds to His payment

#### IV. What are the good works that God expects of us?

A. We are to continuously thank God our savior who has freely given us everything.

#### \*Martin Luther Statement\*

Our faith in Christ does not free us from works but from false opinions concerning works, that is, from the foolish presumption that justification is acquired by works. Faith redeems, corrects, and preserves our consciences so that we know that righteousness does not consist in works, although works neither can nor ought to be wanting...

### **Group Activity**

The group activities for this lesson are going to be mostly group discussions on the questions I pose during the study.

### **Rationale**

I chose this topic to teach on because the idea and theology behind grace is so misunderstood. I feel that we as humans trying to grasp the idea of a gift given to us with no strings attached that will enable us to enter heaven is almost impossible. Even when we finally understand grace it's something we still at times have a hard time not only explaining to ourselves, but to others as well. I hope through this 10

week study I can not only shine a light on what grace is to others, but also grow in understanding of it myself.

#### References

“Hymn: Free from the Law—Oh, Happy Condition.” *Hymnal.net*, 2024, [www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/1001](http://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/1001). Accessed 5 Sept. 2024.

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