

UNDER GRACE

Rom 6:14 *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

The above verse reveals how we can be free from the power of sin and experience sanctification. It is the same principle in which we initially were saved by.

For you were saved by grace through faith, and that not of our own, it is the gift of God, not of works lest we boast. [Eph. 2:8-9]

Grace is where God performs for man without his help or works. God does all the work, therefore He gets all the credit and glory, and our boasting ends. Justification before God comes by grace. But what of sanctification? How does it come? Does it come by our struggle, effort, and sheer diligence to overcome our stubborn sins? Many think so. Most Christians are not so prideful as to think sanctification is ALL up to them to accomplish. They mistakenly believe that it is a joint **effort** between them and the Lord. They believe that God expects them to try as hard as they can to conquer the known sins in their life and then rely on God to help them with the extra help they may need. This is the attempt to mix grace and works. But the problem with this idea is that **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!** Grace and works are very opposite principles. Grace is where God does **ALL** the work for man and works are man doing **ALL** the work for God. There can never be a combination of the two or both of them would be destroyed.

Rom 11:6 And **if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.**

So I hope you see that mixing grace and your efforts is not possible. Many people believe they are relying on God's grace but actually they are not because they are frustrating the grace of God by their own efforts. You cannot try to overcome a sin and trust in God's grace to do it at the same time. Either you stop trying and rely on God doing it for you completely, or you tell God to step aside and you handle the task all yourself. There **CAN BE** no combination. God is not into joint ventures when it comes from saving you from your sins.

Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches how we can be set free from sin's **penalty**. It is by the grace of God. **Romans 6:14** teaches us how we can be free from sin's **power**. It is also by the grace of God! The power of sin is the domination of sin. How will sin lose its domination over you? It is when you are **UNDER GRACE**. So, we see that the same thing that saved you from sin's penalty and justified you is the same thing that will save you from sin's power and sanctify you! It is **GRACE**. It is God performing **ALL** the work for you. Your job is to humbly receive it by faith. Paul contrasts being under Grace with being under Law. He said that sin will lose its dominance **BECAUSE** you are no longer under the Law. What is the Law? **It is a list of commands in which man must work and produce for God.** It is based upon man's works. **There is no grace provided under the Law to help you overcome sin!** There is not even one command to pray under the Law. This is because the Law is based solely on what man does for God. Under the Law God **does not** and **cannot help** man. Under the Law man must do **ALL** the work. God does not **AID** at all. God sits back and observes to see the outcome of all man's striving and working. What He sees is man failing miserably! God knew that man would, He just needed for man to see it so man would call out for **GRACE**, in which God does **ALL** the working and saving for man.

When you attempt even a little bit to overcome your sins you are putting yourself under the principle of Law and Works. This will shut down Grace in your life. It will frustrate the grace of God from moving

in your life. When you are facing sin and temptation and you turn to the Lord and place the matter of overcoming fully on Him and trust Him to overcome fully **FOR** you, then you will find yourself under **GRACE**. God will get **ALL** the glory and you will **GET** the gift of victory. [**1 Cor. 15:57**]
It is high time you leave the Law and get **UNDER** Grace my friend!