

Rhythms of Grace part 5  
Liberating Grace  
09/27/2020

*Gal. 5:1-4 (NLT) So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

*Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.*

- Do you often feel dissatisfied or discontent with yourself or your situation?
- Do you have a tendency to see something wrong with things rather than what's right?
- Do you ever find yourself using these phrases regularly, "I have to... or you have to...I must..or you must I should to... you should..."?
- One or both of the spiritual traps that plague Christ followers
- One of the 2 great enemies of grace
- One of the 2 freedom stealers

**2 Freedom Stealers:**

**LEGALISM** -

- Trying to earn God's approval through rules.

**PERFECTIONISM** -

- Trying to prove my worth by being perfect.
- Wait a minute, this has got to be too good to be true
- I ought to help God out a little
- Surely He expects something of me
- Heartfelt response

**WOW** and **THANK YOU**

*Galatians 3:3 (NLT) How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?*

**3 Negative Effects of Legalism/Perfectionism:**

A) It defeats my **DRIVE**.

*Ecc. 11:4 (TLB) "If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done."*

B) It **RUINS** my relationships.

*Proverbs 17:9 (TLB) "Love forgets mistakes. Nagging about them parts the best of friends."*

C) It **HINDERS** my happiness.

*Ecclesiastes 7:16 (NKJV) "Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?"*

- "Why make yourself miserable?"
- There is always a gap between the ideal and the real
- A gap between what you want to be and what you really are

### **R.E.S.T..**

#### **REALIZE**

- Everyone is a mess.

*Gal. 5:4 (NLT) For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.*

*Psalm 119:96 (TLB) "Nothing is perfect except God's Word."*

- God's Grace moves us forward

### **3 characteristics of People who never move forward:**

#### The **UNPERSUADED**

*Numbers 13:30-31(NIV) Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."*

#### The **UNDECIDED**

*James 1:6-8 (NIV) But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

#### The **UNTHANKFUL**

- The quickest fix for ingratitude is loss

*Luke 17:17-18 (NIV) Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"*

#### **ENJOY**

*Gal. 5:1 (NLT) So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.*

- I need to enjoy God's unconditional love

*1 John 3:1 (TLB) "See how very much our heavenly Father loves us for He allows us to be called His children. Think of it. And we really are."*

- A servant is accepted and appreciated on the basis of what he does.
- A child is accepted and appreciated on the basis of who he is.
- A servant starts the day anxious and worried that his work will please his master.
- A child rests in the secure love of his family.

*1 Thess. 5:16-18 (NIV) Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

### **SWAP**

*Gal. 1:7-8 (NIV) You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom.*

- Let God handle things
- At the root of both legalism and perfectionism is the desire to control
- Most of your life is out of your control

*1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."*

*Proverbs 14:30 (LB) "A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life."*

- You get worn out, stressed out and burnt out

### **When you're tired:**

A) Mountains look **BIGGER**

B) Offenses come **EASIER**

*Mark 6:31 (NIV) Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

C) You begin to see more **MISTAKES**.

- In others and yourself

*Daniel 7:25 (LB) He will defy the Most High God and wear down the saints with persecution,*

### **TRUST**

*Gal. 1:6b (NIV) What is important is faith expressing itself in love.*

- Act in faith, not fear

*Eph. 2:8 (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith."*

*Col. 2:6 (CSB) So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him,*