

## The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

### Chapter 7 (Lesson 10)

#### The Difference between the Law and the Gospel

*“By the law here is meant the moral law as a covenant of works, and by the gospel is meant the gospel in its strict and proper sense. To know the difference so as to be able to distinguish aright between the law and the gospel is of the utmost importance to the faith, holiness, and comfort for every true Christian.”*

Four \_\_\_\_\_ consequences of not having a proper understanding of the differences between law and gospel are:

**1. Making \_\_\_\_\_ of no value**

*“As this is a great error, so it is a very dangerous error. If a man attempts to add any works of his own to the consummate righteousness of Jesus Christ as the ground of his justification before God, Christ profits him nothing.”*

**2. Keeping one’s soul in a place of misery and \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Displaying a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ spirit**

*“When his hope of divine mercy is raised by the liveliness of his frame in duties and not by discoveries of the freeness and riches of redeeming grace offered to him in the gospel; or when he expects eternal life not as the gift of God through Jesus Christ but as a recompense from God for his own obedience and suffering, he plainly shows that he is under the power of a legal spirit.”*

**4. Keeping sinners from \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ**

Just as there are negative consequences for not understanding the differences, there are \_\_\_\_\_ results that come from having a right understanding of these differences.

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ will become more clear**

**2. Ability to better distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Keeping one’s soul in a place of \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. Giving one a proper \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue true obedience**

Colquhoun then gives 10 differences between the law and the gospel

**1. The law comes, necessarily, from the very perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of God, whereas the gospel comes from God’s goodwill toward men**

*“The manifestations of God’s love, grace, and mercy in redeeming sinners to Himself was no more necessary than the display of His wisdom, power, and goodness in creating them.”*

**2. The law can be known (at least in part) from \_\_\_\_\_ revelation, whereas the gospel can only be known through \_\_\_\_\_ revelation**

**3. The law regards man according to his “pre-fall” state, whereas the gospel considers men as \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. The law tells what type of people we \_\_\_\_\_ be but does not tell us how we can achieve it, whereas the gospel teaches us how we may become such people (through union with Christ)**

**5. The law says “Do and \_\_\_\_\_”, whereas the gospel says “\_\_\_\_\_ and do”**

*“The law proceeds on the supposition that we will have all that we originally had and requires perfect obedience; the gospel supposes that we have nothing and furnishes us with all that the law demands...The former accepts no obedience but that which is perfect and perpetual; the grace of the latter accepts, though not in a justifying righteousness, sincere obedience from persons already justified, though it is far from being perfect.”*

*“The law is God in a command; but the gospel is God in Christ, God in a promise.”*

**6. The law promises life for one’s \_\_\_\_\_ perfect obedience, whereas the gospel promises life because of the perfect obedience of another**

**7. The law \_\_\_\_\_ the sinner, whereas the gospel promises the sinner no condemnation**

*“The law is a sound of terror to convinced sinners; the gospel is a joyful sound, ‘good tidings of great joy’...The law condemns a sinner for his first offence, but the gospel offers him the forgiveness of all his offences.”*

**8. The law brings internal \_\_\_\_\_, whereas the gospel brings joy**

*“The law shows the sinner his disease; the gospel presents him with healing balm.”*

**9. The law \_\_\_\_\_ the depraved heart, whereas the gospel melts the heart of stone**

*“When the love of God revealed in the gospel is known and believed with application, it melts down the obdurate heart into penitential sorrow for sin, whereas the terrors of the law increase the power of indwelling sin and harden the heart against godly sorrow.”*

**10. The law leads to boasting in one’s achievements, whereas the gospel leaves room for only boasting in \_\_\_\_\_**

*“The man who is under the dominion of the law of works and of a legal spirit boasts of his own works, and he hopes that they will, in a greater or lesser degree, procure justification and eternal life for him; whereas he who is under the sanctifying influence of the grace of the gospel boasts only of the righteousness of his incarnate Redeemer.”*

A few other thoughts:

When thinking of these differences we also must remember that both the law and the gospel have their proper \_\_\_\_\_

*“While we thus distinguish aright between the law as a covenant and the gospel strictly taken, we should always take heed that we do not apply to ourselves the gospel where the law should be applied, nor the law where the gospel ought to be applied.”*

The only way to help a \_\_\_\_\_ saint is to help them to properly distinguish between the law and gospel

*“None can successfully minister true consolation to a discouraged and disconsolate believer without teaching him to distinguish, in his own case, between the law and the gospel.”*

Trying to put “law” into gospel is to oppose Christ and such efforts flow from both \_\_\_\_\_ and self-righteousness

*“Unbelief and a legal spirit are the very soul or life of the body of sin.”*