

# BEING

Two contrasting orders are seen in the Bible: the old and the new. The old order is based on law, works, and *doing*. The new order is based on grace, faith, and *being*. The Old Testament records the old order and the New Testament records the new. This contrast is clearly taught throughout the New Testament. The old order foreshadows the new.

When Jesus came, He established the new order by fulfilling the law. There were some converted Jews, however, who thought the Gentiles ought to become Jews according to the law before they could be true followers of the Christ. In so doing, they were imposing the law (works of the flesh) upon new believers. They were called the Circumcision Party.

From that day to this a gospel of works has been preached. However, any so-called gospel that is based on works cannot be THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Gospel means, "Good news." A so-called gospel based on the works of the flesh is not good news. The only true gospel (good news) is the message of salvation by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8.

The contrast between these two is summed up into these two words: "doing" and "being." Doing is of the old order. Being is of the new. The time for "doing" has passed. It is law. The time for being has come. It is grace. The gospel and the Christian life is not based on "doing," but on "being"—being who Jesus, the Christ, has made us to be in Him. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10.

The irony of "doing" is this: the more we impose the "ought to's" [reinforcing the law], the more impossible it becomes for us to do what we think we "ought" to do. The more we are put under law, the more we are bound to break it. On the other hand, when we confess by faith who we have been made to be, we are finally able to be that because it is the work of grace and not a work of self-strength. "The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." 2 Corinthians 3:6.

What we *are* determines what we *do*. We will do evil if we are evil in our hearts. We will do righteousness if we are righteous in our hearts. We can never *do* in order to *be*. That is works-righteousness. It is the other way around. What we have become determines what we do. If we have true saving faith, we will do the works of faith.

When we are under the law, we remain under the condemnation of the law. Thus, we remain under the power of sin and guilt.

When we are in grace by faith, we are liberated from sin and the law as well as the condemnation of sin and law. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1. We walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. We may not always make righteous choices, but we nonetheless have the power from within to make righteous choices. We are commanded to do so. Grace does not give us the liberty to sin. Grace is the power within us not to sin. It is the power of God within us to be who God has made us to be and do what we have been called to do.

Therefore, we no longer exhort one another saying, "You ought to do this or that." If we are born from above by the Spirit of God, redeemed by His blood, saved by grace through faith, then we declare to one another that we are already clean, forgiven, righteous, holy, sinless, faithful, obedient, light, salt—all those grace-filled terms that set us free. This is not the case with the flesh nature that has been put to death by the cross of Christ. It is rather who (or what) we are in our reborn spiritual nature. He is in us and we are in Him.

Because Christ is in us and we are in Him, we are becoming who He is—conformed into His image. "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29.

We confess that we *are* the fruit of Christ's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB). These are the fruit of His Spirit. We *are* to the praise of His glory. We *are* faithful because He is our faithfulness. We *are* righteous because He is our righteousness. We *are* obedient because He is our obedience. He is working His nature within us.

When we get the revelation of this; that is, of His grace—what He has done, not what we can do—our spiritual eyes are opened and our hearts joyfully declare, "Yes, I really am love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I am the righteousness of God in Christ."

It is the evil one who condemns us, who whispers deceptions in our ears saying, we are awful, hopeless, unbelieving, sinners, unloving and unlovable, lonely, and poor. We are to reject these confessions. We are none of these things in Christ Jesus. These are lies from the enemy who wants to get us out of faith, because when we are out of faith, we are fallen from grace; that is, we're back under the condemnation of the law.

Now, faith in God through Christ Jesus is righteousness. When we are in faith (believing and trusting in God through Christ), we are in righteousness. Even the faith we have is a grace gift from God. It is His faith in us. It

is all grace. So, we are no longer condemned by sin and the law. Rather, we are free from sin and the law. It is not what we do that counts, but who we are in Christ.

I say again to stress the point. Our “doings” are the result of who we *are*. If we are evil, then evil will proceed from our lives. If we are righteous, then righteous deeds proceed from us. Who then are we? Who we are is determined by “whose” we are. We are of our Father God, because we have been born of Him through the precious blood of Christ. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4.

Therefore, repent! Walk according to who you are. We are who the Bible says we are by faith. All that we do proceeds out of who we are in Christ. Be!

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