

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 8 (Lesson 11)

The Agreement between the Law and the Gospel

“As the law in its covenant form and the gospel in its proper and strict sense are not contrary to one another but only different from each other, so while they differ in some respects they agree in others.”

“They are admirably adapted to reflect mutual honor on one another and so to afford the most illustrious displays of the glory of their divine author. The law, as a covenant of works and a rule of life, demands nothing of sinners but what is offered and promised in the gospel; and in the gospel everything is freely promised and offered to them which the law, in any of its forms, requires of them.”

Colquhoun then highlights three ways that the law and gospel _____ with one another

1. In its _____ power-The gospel fulfills the commands of the law.

The law commands that we yield perfect obedience. The gospel _____ this command and provides for the saint perfect obedience in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

“When a man cordially believes the gospel, he, in effect, presents perfect obedience to the commands of the law as a covenant...He cannot cordially believe the gospel without presenting, at the same time, perfect obedience to the law...Thus the law and the gospel unite in serving the interests of each other.”

“Whatever the law requires, the gospel, in the most abundant measure, supplies...While the law commands the tears of penitential sorrow to flow, the gospel, and the astonishing grace promised and offered in it, cause them to flow.”

2. In its _____ power-The gospel fulfills the demands of the law.

The law demands that all sin be punished. Not one sin is allowed to be overlooked but all transgressors must be judged for their deeds of lawlessness. The gospel answers these just _____ in the death of Jesus Christ.

“The terrors of the violated law serve, under the illuminating grace of the Holy Spirit, to show a convinced sinner his extreme need of salvation that is presented to him in the gospel.”

“The former lay open the wound, and the latter applies a sovereign cure. Those plow up the fallow ground, and this sows the good seed in it.”

3. In its commanding and condemning power considered _____ - The law leads the sinner to the gospel and the gospel shows the sinner the holiness and _____ of the law.

“The law in the hand of the Holy Spirit serves to make the awakened sinner long for and relish the grace of the gospel, and the gospel dignifies the law and renders it illustrious in his view. The law magnifies the grace of the gospel by showing the sinner his need of justification and salvation by that grace, and the grace of the gospel establishes and magnifies the law.”

In Christ you see the beauty of obedience to the law and the glory of the merciful promises of the gospel. In Him law and gospel _____.

The law leads us to the gospel and the gospel then leads us back to the law-now not as a covenant of works but as a _____ of _____.

“The law is his schoolmaster to teach him his need of the grace of the gospel, and this grace will have his heart and his life regulated by no rule but the law. Nothing is gospel obedience but obedience to the law in the hand of Christ as a rule of duty.”

“The gospel is no sooner believed than obedience is yielded both to the law as a covenant and to the law as a rule...What the law commands believers, the grace of the gospel teaches them to love and to practice universal holiness (Titus 2:11-12).”

“The law cannot be inscribed on the heart without the gospel nor the gospel without the law. As they are found together in the same divine revelation, so they dwell together harmoniously in the same believing soul.”

“The law requires believer to love God with all their heart, but it is the gospel only that presents God in such a view as to become an object of love to a sinner-namely, as He is in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”

“The law commands them to worship God as their God; the gospel discloses to them both the object and the way of acceptable worship.”

The reflection part of this chapter provides many good practical thoughts about this agreement

- 1. To _____ the law is to _____ the gospel. Likewise, to hate the gospel is to hate the law.**

“A man cannot be an enemy on the gospel without being, at the same time, an enemy of the law...the law and the gospel are in such harmony with each other as to have no divided interests.”

- 2. The law and gospel together reveal the glorious _____ of God**

“The law is a transcript of all the moral perfections of God, so likewise is the gospel...The glory of holiness, justice, and goodness of God, as well as of His wisdom and faithfulness, shines brightly in the law, but it is displayed still more illustrious in the gospel.”

- 3. An _____ that a man has been saved by the gospel will be their growing obedience to the law of God**

“If a man has attained a saving and experimental knowledge of the gospel, he will undoubtedly evidence it by obedience of heart and life to the law in the hand of Christ as a rule of duty.”

“All who are renewed after His image in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness do evidence this renovation of heart by delighting in His law and by loving and admiring His gospel.”

“Everyone, then, who knows by experience the boundless grace of the gospel will perform sincere, cheerful, and constant obedience to the law as a rule.”

- 4. Faith in Christ leading to obedience to the law brings _____**

“There can be no happiness without holiness, so the believer is comfortable and happy in proportion as he is holy.”

“The legalist expects happiness for his duties, but the true believer enjoys it in them; and the less he expects for them, the more he enjoys in them.”

- 5. Do not set the law and gospel in _____ to one another**

“Clear and just views, especially of the agreement between the law and gospel, tend exceedingly, under the influences of the Spirit of truth, to promote an evangelical, holy, and cheerful frame of spirit.”