

6. The Gospel and the Law

1. Introduction:

1) Why Is the Relationship Between the Gospel and the Law Important?

- (1) At the heart of Christian theology lies the correct understanding of the relationship between the Gospel and the Law.
 - (2) Paul emphasizes the role of the Law and the superiority of the Gospel in Galatians and Romans.
 - (3) A misunderstanding of the Gospel can lead either to legalism or antinomianism.
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2. Functions of the Law

1) To Reveal Sin

- (1) “Through the law we become conscious of sin.” (Romans 3:20)
- (2) The Law exposes human sinfulness and shows the need for the Gospel.

2) To Condemn

- (1) The Law reveals sin and brings condemnation before the justice of God.
- (2) Salvation is not through the Law, but through the Gospel.
(Galatians 2:16)

3) To Lead Us to Christ (as a Tutor)

- (1) “The Law was our tutor to lead us to Christ.” (Galatians 3:24)
 - (2) The Law guides us to look to Christ as our Savior.
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3. Functions of the Gospel

1) The Power of God for Salvation

- (1) The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)

2) Justification by Faith

(1) One is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law. (Romans 3:28)

3) Leads to a New Life by the Holy Spirit

(1) Through the Gospel, we are born again and led by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16–25)

4. Theological Relationship Between the Law and the Gospel

Category	Law	Gospel
Purpose	Reveals sin	Solves the problem of sin
Function	Condemnation, Guidance	Salvation, Liberation
Result	Exposes human inability	Reveals God's grace and power
Recipients	All mankind	Believers
Focus	Standard of works	Grace through faith

5. Misunderstandings and Corrections

1) Legalism

- (1) Attempting to earn salvation through the works of the Law.
- (2) The Gospel is entirely based on grace.

2) Antinomianism

- (1) Misusing grace as an excuse to ignore the Law.
- (2) True grace leads to a holy life.

6. Conclusion

- 1) The Law reveals the need for the Gospel, and the Gospel accomplishes what the Law cannot.
- 2) In the Gospel, the Law is fulfilled (Romans 8:4), and we bear the fruit of righteousness through the Spirit.
- 3) True believers are no longer under Law but under grace. (Romans 6:14)

※ Key Scriptures

- Romans 3:20, 28
- Galatians 2:16, 3:24
- Romans 8:1–4
- Galatians 5:16–18
- Romans 6:14