The Goal Is Love
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I. The Righteous Requirement = Love (Rom. 8:3–4)
Matt. 22:35–40; Rom. 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14
A. The new commandment (John 13:34–35)
B. The purpose of the commandment = love (1 Tim. 1:5–6 NASB)
   All else is idle talk/fruitless discussion
C. Evidence of new birth (1 Pet. 1:22–23)
D. Evidence of knowing God (1 John 4:7–8)

II. Faith Without Works
A. Is dead (James 2:26)—works are the result of faith
B. The work that faith produces is love (Gal. 5:6)
   Therefore faith without love is dead
C. Spiritual gifts, etc., without love, are nothing (1 Cor. 13:1–3)
   1. Love first (1 Cor. 14:1)
   2. Then spiritual gifts

III. How Love Comes
A. By the Holy Spirit—outpoured (Rom. 5:5)
B. By keeping God’s Word—outworked (1 John 2:5; 2 Peter 1:5–7)
C. Fear vs. love (1 John 4:18)

Can you believe for perfect love?

What It Means To Love God
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I. The Love God Looks For (John 14:21–24)
A. Motivation for obedience
B. Expressed by obedience
   Obedience is progressive, e.g. the tongue
I. No more unclean speech
2. No more criticism (Rom. 14:4)
3. No more negatives (unbelief)
4. Yes, yes and No, no (Matt. 6:37)
C. But all the time our faith is counted for righteousness (Rom. 4:3)

II. God’s Love Is Jealous
A. No other gods (Deut. 5:8–9)
B. Tolerates no rivals (Luke 14:25–26)
C. No reservations (Luke 14:33)
D. No second option (Mark 10:17–22)
   To be loved by Jesus is frightening
E. The one who loves God is known by God (1 Cor. 8:1–3)

Self-Humbling
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I. Pride Vs. Humility
A. Self-humbling is the primary requirement for prayer for revival (2 Chron. 7:14)
B. Pride is the original sin
   1. Arose from wisdom and beauty (Ezek. 28:11–17)
   2. Led to rebellion—as in our contemporary culture
C. Pride is the main barrier between God and us
   1. Remedy: humble ourselves—as we respond to the Holy Spirit
   2. God will not do it for us
D. Humility is expressed by the way we act (Luke 14:7–10)
E. A law of the universe (Luke 14:11)
F. Exemplified by Jesus—contrast Lucifer (Phil. 2:5–11)

II. Practical Application
A. Confess our sins (Prov. 28:13)
B. God only forgives the sins we confess (1 John 1:9)
   1. Confession to God requires vertical self-humbling (James 5:16)
   2. Confession to one another requires horizontal self-humbling
C. How can we know what to confess?
   1. No morbid introspection—guilt vs. conviction
   2. God alone searches the heart (Jer. 17:9–10)
   3. Our appropriate response (Ps. 139:23–24)

Grace vs. Law
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I. How Can A Man Be Righteous Before God? – Job’s Question (Job 9:2)
A. God’s answer (Rom. 1:16–17)
   1. Righteousness is from God by faith (Phil. 3:8–9)
2. The outworking of this righteousness (Phil. 3:10–11)

B. The alternative: legalism
   1. The number one problem of the church
   2. Paul’s reaction to legalism (Gal. 1:5–6)
   3. Contrast Paul’s reaction to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:4–9)

C. The carnal nature
   1. Motivation: “To be like God”—but independent of God (Gen. 3:5)
   2. Our carnal nature can never please God (Rom. 8:8)

D. God has ruled out achieving righteousness by rules (Rom. 3:20, 22–28)
   The first step: stop working (Rom. 4:1–5)

II. The Only Alternative To Rules
   A. Be led by the Spirit—i.e., dependent (Rom. 8:14)
   B. Two mutually exclusive alternatives (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:18)
   C. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit—Piano and Pianist
   D. The Holy Spirit will:
      1. Direct you to God’s Word
      2. Interpret God’s Word (compare 2 Pet. 1:20; 2 Tim. 3:16)
      3. Show you how to apply God’s Word
   E. The Holy Spirit will never:
      1. Lead you to do anything contrary to Scripture
      2. Lead you to do anything unholy
   F. Map or personal guide?

III. Legalism
   A. Two functions of law
      1. To define and restrain evil—to set boundaries (Gal. 3:19)
      2. To enable people to live together, e.g., traffic laws
         But laws cannot make people good
   B. Church/denominational rules
      1. You should respect and obey rules, but they do not make you righteous
      2. Most church rules do not deal with real, basic issues; e.g., Beatitudes in Matthew 5
         a. Poor in spirit (v. 3)
         b. Meek (v. 5)
         c. Hunger and thirst for righteousness (v. 6)
         d. Merciful (v. 7)
         e. Pure in heart (v. 8)
         f. Peacemakers (v. 9)
   C. Relying on church rules will
      b. Distract you from the really important issues (Matt. 23:23)
      c. Separate you from Christians who follow different rules

IV. Grace: The Alternative
   A. Law and grace are mutually exclusive (Rom. 6:14)
   B. By grace through faith (Eph. 2:8–10)
      1. Faith is a gift from God
      2. Not by works—we cannot earn it
C. Faith and works
   1. Faith without works is dead (James 2:26)
   2. Faith comes first, then works
   3. Works are the result of faith
D. The primary work of faith is love (Gal. 5:6)
   Faith without love is dead

V. Operation And Effects Of Grace
A. God’s grace with me (1 Cor. 15:10)—a power working with Paul
B. God’s grace is always sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9–10)
C. Only grace can produce the results described in Eph. 1:3–6—our being saved is to glorify God’s grace
D. God’s grace is rich and inexhaustible (Eph. 1:7)
E. Three supernatural effects of God’s grace (Eph. 2:4–7):
   1. Made alive
   2. Resurrected
   3. Enthroned
   No law can ever do these three things
F. We are to be an eternal demonstration of God’s grace to the entire universe (Eph. 3:9–10)

   Law (rules) confines us to the level of human ability.
   Grace lifts us above the level of human ability.
   Only grace makes it possible to live the Christian life.

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