



## 1 Key Concept

### Understanding "under the law" ...

- For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14 ESV).

First, let's get down to the very basics. "You" are not under the law. "You" would include those "of faith" who Christ has redeemed from the curse of the law.

- (Galatians 3:9 ESV) So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
- (Galatians 3:13 ESV) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

But what does it mean to not be under the law. It means that we are no longer under the dispensation or administration of the law. Dispensation here meaning the system or arrangement of the law.

So to be under the law means that you are aligning yourself with the purpose of the law. The purpose of the law is not to make you moral but to reveal your sinfulness, so any attempt to obey the law as in "under the law" contradicts God's stated purpose for the law.

- (Romans 3:20 ESV) For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

## 2 Key Concept

### Understanding "under grace" ...

#### OBEDIENCE

"UNDER THE LAW"—OUTSIDE, EXTERNAL.

"UNDER GRACE"—FROM THE HEART.

There is a huge difference between obedience *under the law* and obedience *under grace*. The person who tries to obey God *under the law* is focused on the external. This obedience is a misguided, unbiblical, contradictory attempt to try to earn God's acceptance. The person who is trying to gain approval by obedience doesn't understand the purpose of the law.

- (Romans 6:17-18 ESV) But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of

righteousness.

Contrary to the outside work of the law, grace rules from the heart through the Spirit of God. This person is an obedient slave to God and finds the freedom that comes when grace reigns.

Under grace we now obey from the heart and we align ourselves with God's purpose by believing God and trusting him alone that he will complete his work of salvation through his grace.

Grace reigns. Grace is not like the cleanup crew for our mistakes. Grace doesn't act apart from God's holiness. No, grace rules, as in God rules, as in he is Sovereign Lord.

- (Romans 5:21 ESV) So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## 3 Key Concept

### Accepting the superiority of the new covenant ...

- **Major problem:** A refusal to accept the supremacy of the new covenant.

It seems that in spite of the very clear statements of Scripture—see references below, many people refuse to accept the supremacy of the new covenant.

Supremacy: the state or condition of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status.

Let me ask. Is God less God when he acts in his grace? Is he weak in his grace? Is he less holy? Less powerful? Less wise? Less sovereign?

For the person who has not learned, then possibly the confusion is understandable. But for the person who has repeatedly heard and refuses to accept this clear, sound doctrine of the supremacy of the new covenant, then there is no excuse for their rebellion and sin. This is willful ignorance and as stated below, this person will "eat the fruit of their ways."

- (Proverbs 1:28-33 NIV) Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, 29 since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD. 30 Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, 31 they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. 32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.

We must acknowledge the superiority of the new covenant without human disclaimers. I have heard too many times those claiming to declare the whole counsel of God because they refuse to accept teaching before them which is as plain as the nose on their face.

I recently read this in reference to Romans 6:14 and our not being under the law. Quoting the person ... he or she states ... "And this is true if you take what Paul said about the law at face value." This is so typical of people who cannot bring themselves to accept the superiority of the new covenant.

For those of you willing to accept this clear teaching I give you the following references:

- (2 Corinthians 3:8-11 ESV) Will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there

was glory in the ministry of condemnation, **the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.** 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of **the glory that surpasses it.** 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, **much more will what is permanent have glory.**

- (Hebrews 7:18-19 ESV) For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, **a better hope is introduced,** through which we draw near to God.
- (Hebrews 7:22-28 ESV) This makes Jesus the guarantor of **a better covenant.** 23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.
- (Hebrews 8:6 ESV) But as it is, Christ has obtained **a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better,** since it is enacted on **better promises.**
- (Hebrews 8:13 ESV) In speaking of **a new covenant,** **he makes the first one obsolete.** And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
- (Hebrews 10:1 ESV) For since **the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities,** it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

#### 4 Key Concept

##### Accepting the reality of the new covenant ...

► **Major problem:** A refusal to accept the reality of the new covenant.

Too good to be true? Yes! Unbelievable? Kind of ... The promises of the new covenant are too good to be true ... in the realm of humans, that is, which is why we must trust God and find true reality in his word of truth. It sure is a good thing that our salvation is all God from start to finish.

We should be exploding in joy and worship for our citizenship in this new kingdom where Jesus is our Master, and where he reigns in grace.

Our grace foundation is rock solid biblically as stated in the other study sheets; no need to repeat here. What I will share here are verses that describe the new citizenship for those who are in Christ and verses which speak to the city and country which will be our reality when we see Christ.

Are these thoughts fanciful? Fanciful can be defined as over-imaginative and unrealistic; marked by fancy or unrestrained imagination rather than by reason and experience. So, yes, as far as the perception of the human mind, or the natural person as depicted in 1 Corinthians 2:14, then these thoughts could be regarded as fanciful.

- (1 Corinthians 2:14 ESV) **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God,** for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned.  
But for those who know Christ ... the fanciful reality of our new status in the kingdom of God's grace is beyond our most wonderful imaginations.
- (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV) But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, **nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him**" – 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
- (Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV) **Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,** according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- (Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,** 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into **a holy temple in the Lord.** 22 In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**
- (Philippians 3:18-21 ESV) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,** 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- (Hebrews 11:10 ESV) **For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**
- (Hebrews 11:14-16 ESV) For people who speak thus make it clear that they are **seeking a homeland.** 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, **they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for he has prepared for them a city.**
- See also Hebrews 12:22-24, 13:14, Revelation 3:12, 21:2, etc.



**NOT UNDER LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE.**