

## 40 Days of Grace, week 3: The lure of legalism

### Getting the right balance

Since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!  
— Revelation 3:16

There is no balance between grace and law in our relationship with God.

### We have been released from the law

Now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.  
— Romans 7:6.

Notice the order: first God forgives us; then we live to please him.

The law's role is to show us our sin so that we turn to God's grace.

### Why do we slip into living by the law?

#### 1. Living by the law looks right

“I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.”  
— Luke 18:10–12.

#### 2. Living by the law is simpler

#### 3. Living by the law appeals to our pride

### What’s the big problem?

Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? [...] How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?  
— Galatians 3:1a, 3.

### If you live by the law then ...

1. You’re saying God's grace isn't enough.
2. You’re negotiating with God.
3. Faith becomes something that you do.

But even the faith by which we accept God's goodness is a gift from him:

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it  
— Ephesians 2:8–9.

### It's all about the goodness of God

The law always puts us in a position of uncertainty: “Am I good enough?”

But the real issue is this: is God is good enough?