

FORBIDDEN WORDS UNDER GRACE – Part 1

Things That Often Offend Pauline People But Shouldn't

“...in all [Paul's] epistles...are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest...” – 2 Peter 3:16

1. Offenses to Salvation Not of Works/Peace with God

- a. Shall not “inherit the kingdom of God” – 1Cor 6:10, Gal 5:21 vs. Rom 5:8, Titus 3:5-7, Col 2:13, Eph 2:4-5
 - i) Interpret few hard verses by multitude of clear verses
 - ii) Keep reading for context: 1Cor 6:11 & Gal 5:24-25
 - iii) Know who God made you & act like it – 1Cor 1:2, Eph 2:1-6, 4:30, 5:1 & 5:8; Rom 8:14, 2Tim 2:19
- b. “If...” – Rom 8:17, 1Cor 15:2, Col 1:23, 2Tim 2:11-13 vs. Eph 1:13, Col 1:20, 2Tim 1:12, Rom 8:31
 - i) *If* is not always zero conditional/dependent “if...then” – Learn your language, *if* can also mean:
 - (a) might/hypothetical (1Cor 15:1-2)
 - (b) whether (2Tim 2:12, Rom 8:17)
 - (c) given that (2Tim 1:11)
 - (d) always/certain/every time (Col 1:23)
- c. Labor/(Do) Work (of faith?) – 1Th 1:3, 2Cor 5:9 vs. Rom 4:5, 11:6, Eph 2:8-9
 - i) Not for salvation, but we've been saved to serve the Lord with good works – Salvation & Service are different
 - ii) Receiving grace means you don't work for it – Giving grace requires you work to benefit someone else
 - iii) It is our reasonable service & expectation that we *should* labor for God because of the work Christ did for us:
 - (a) Rom 12:1, 1Cor 15:58, 2Co 5:15, 6:1 & 9:8; Eph 2:10 & 4:12; Phi 2:30, Col 1:10 & 1:29; 1Thes 5:13, 2Thes 2:17, 1Tim 2:10 & 6:18; 2Tim 2:15, 3:17 & 4:5; Titus 1:16, 2:7, 2:15, 3:1, 3:8 & 3:14
- d. Terror/fear of the Lord – 2Cor 5:10-11, Phi 2:12, Eph 5:21 vs. Rom 8:15, 2Tim 1:7
 - i) Fear before salvation (of the judge) is different than fear after (of your Saviour, your Head)
 - ii) Prov 9:10, Acts 9:31, Rom 3:18 & 13:7; 2Cor 7:1; Eph 6:5; Col 3:23-24
 - iii) Remember *who* it is that saved you, that it was *you* who needed saved, and that he saved you for a *purpose*
 - iv) This is different than Israel Heb 4:1 & Rom 11:20-21

2. Offenses to Our Liberty in Christ/Not Under Law

- a. Obey/obedience/obedient – Rom 6:17, 15:18, 2Cor 2:9, Phi 2:12 vs. Gal 5:1, 2Cor 3:17, 1Cor 10:29
 - i) 33x in Paul's epistles (3x more than “cross” ...) = 20% of the uses in the entire scripture; mostly instructive
 - ii) Freedom from the law doesn't permit disobedience. Didn't Adam teach us man should always obey God?
 - iii) What obedience looks like changes dispensationally – Deu 13:4, Acts 5:29 & 6:7, 1Pe 4:17, Rom 2:8, 2Thes 1:8
 - iv) Paul instructed us to obey his words as God's messenger for a purpose – 2Thes 3:14, 2Cor 10:5-8, Rom 14:12

- b. Commandments— 1Thes 4:2, 4:11, 2Thes 3:4 vs. Gal 2:21, Rom 3:21 & 6:14, Titus 1:14
- i) Aren't always the Mosaic law—Ep2:15, 6:2 vs Col 2:22 vs 2Co8:8 (Can be expectations, not requirements)
 - ii) Paul's commands have a function (2Co 1:24) & can be given by BoC members to others (Col 4:10, 1Tim 4:11)
 - iii) If Paul is God's chosen vessel & pattern for the church, his commands are important—1Ti1:16, 2Ti2:7, 1Cor11:1
- c. Ordinances (order, orderly, ordain)— 1Cor 11:2, Rom 13:2 vs. Eph 2:15, Col 2:14 & 2:20
- i) Ordinance: an established rule, appointment or observance for order—1Cor 14:40, Eph 2:10, 1Thes 5:14
 - ii) The problem with organized religion is the religion, not the organization (order)—1Cor 16:1, Col 2:5, Titus 1:5
 - iii) God is not the author of confusion (or chaos or disorder or unruliness)—1Cor 14:33
- d. Tradition— 2Thes 2:15 & 3:6 vs. Col 2:8
- i) Many who learn their traditions are founded on wrong doctrine throw the baby out with the bathwater.
 - ii) The Bible is not silent about bad traditions (Mar 7:3-13, 1Pe 1:18), but also good (Luk 2:27, 2:42, 4:15)
 - iii) Tradition is not an authority; but can teach, prioritize, propagate, and produce affinity & faithfulness
 - iv) What are some of Paul's traditions? 2Tim 3:10, 1Tim 4:12-16, 1Thes 1:3, 2:10-12, 3:12, 4:1-12, 5:11-27