



# The Word at Work

## God is good..... ..so why do Christians still feel so guilty?

### Reading the Word

**Key Scriptures:** various

### **Key Points:**

Christians can still feel guilty because they have a distorted view of God and do not fully realise what Jesus has done for them.

They still have an OT mindset that tells them God is angry with them.

They are still effectively under Law, having a *performance-based* approach to God, based on what they do for God, rather than a *faith-based* approach based on what God has done for them.

### **No Longer Under Law**

As Christians, those who now live under a new and better covenant, we are no longer under Law (John 1:17; Rom.6:14, 7:6, 8:1-4; Gal.3:10-13).

The Law was a temporary measure and served 3 main purposes:

1. it restrained evil;
2. it showed us just how sinful we were (Rom.7:7-13);
3. it showed us that we were unable to meet God's standards by our own efforts and so helped us to realise we needed the mercy and grace offered in Christ (Gal.3:23-25)

### **Sin and Mercy**

Sin is serious, it does have consequences and God does judge sin. But if we base our view of God on the punishments for sin under the OT law, we will end up with a distorted view of God.

God is not looking around to see who he can punish; he is looking to see to whom he can extend his mercy.

It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance (Rom.2:4)

The fear of God may stop us from sinning but only the mercy of God can fully deal with the issue of sin (Prov.16:6)

### **The True Nature of God**

This mercy and grace revealed in Christ gives us the full picture of God – he is good, merciful and full of grace.

God does discipline us but only for our good and (Heb.12:10-11).

We need to live as those who are already forgiven, are accepted and delighted in by a loving Father who will, when he has to, discipline us for our good but who desires the best for us and does not give up on us even when we fall short.

### Doing the Word

#### **To Discuss:**

1. What is it like to live under the Law, with a performance-based approach to God?
2. What is it like to live under grace, with a faith-based approach to God?
3. Why do we not need to feel guilty any more?

#### **To Do:**

1. Spend time this week thanking God for his mercy and forgiveness, and that you are no longer under condemnation.

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