

# REMOVING RELIGIOUS CHAINS

## STANDING FAST IN LIBERTY

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,  
and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*

*~ Galatians 5:1*

### **1. Religious Chains**

- a. Religion ~ what we do to earn God’s favor, or assuage God’s wrath
- b. Chains of religion are not merely physical chains, but spiritual soul binding chains
- c. How we know about these chains? God gave a religion to Israel to bring knowledge.
- d. Religious chains → works, sin, law, flesh, world – Rom 3:19-20
- e. These spiritual chains can only be broken through a spiritual remedy

### **2. How they Hold Us Back**

- a. Sin kills: Rom 6:23; Law works fear/wrath: Rom 3:20; Flesh corrupts: Gal 6:8;
- b. The world passes away (vain) – 1 John 2:15
- c. These chains depress, suppress, and steal hope, peace, life, joy, make it all temporary
- d. If you want eternal life and peace then you need delivered from sin, law, flesh, world
- e. We have been given all spiritual blessings and unsearchable riches - Eph 1:3, 7, 2:7, 3:8
- f. Religion keeps you from enjoying salvation, riches in glory, life, peace, etc.

### **3. How to Remove the Chains**

- a. Christ is the Saviour, redeemer, deliverer, justifier – Rom 10:4
- b. Christ dispensed the gospel of grace to save – Titus 2:11, 2 Tim 1:10
- c. Grace breaks the chain through faith in the gospel of Christ – Eph 2:8-9
- d. Faith requires understanding grace doctrine, spiritual things to spiritual – 1 Cor 2:12-13

### **4. Being Entangled Again**

- a. People get put back under chains when grace and law are mixed– Gal 1:6, 5:1
- b. ... or when you sow to the flesh – Gal 5:25; 2 Cor 5:16
- c. ... or when works are added to Christ’s gracious work – Titus 2:13; Rom 4:5 v.
- d. ... or by telling saints they still need forgiveness of sins – 1 John 1:9 vs. Eph 4:32
- e. ... or by teaching hope/peace in the world, and not through Christ – Col 2:6-8
- f. ... or by reminding people about their past; setting affections on earth – Col 2:6-8, 3:1

### **5. Religion Has a Time and Place... but Not Now**

- a. God’s law was holy, just, and good – Rom 7:12; Gal 3:21; Rom 3:31
- b. We rightly divide prophecy/mystery because it let’s religion and grace do their work
- c. Standing fast in liberty means to stand fast in God’s grace

## Grace vs. Religion

1. Grace gives, religion takes
2. Grace rests, religion works
3. Grace delivers, religion binds
4. Grace justifies, religion guilt
5. Grace lifts up, religion anchors
6. Grace reflects, religion expects
7. Grace forgets, religion reminds
8. Grace saves, religion condemns
9. Grace relieves, religion burdens
10. Grace is strong, religion is weak
11. Grace humbles, religion puffs up
12. Grace provides, religion requires
13. Grace liberates, religion dominates
14. Grace produces, religion consumes
15. Grace shows love, religion shows sin
16. Grace initiates, religion is a response
17. Grace is profitable, religion is a liability
18. Grace looks forward, religion looks back
19. Grace makes new, religion keeps the old
20. Grace takes wrong, religion demands right
21. Grace is sufficient, religion is never enough
22. Grace ministers life, religion ministers death
23. Grace is complete, religion is never finished
24. Grace is from heaven, religion is for the world
25. Grace creates peace, religion creates judgment
26. Grace gives blessings, religion gives commands
27. Grace breeds charity, religion breeds resentment
28. Grace takes responsibility, religion acts of necessity
29. Grace comes by the Spirit, religion comes by the flesh
30. Grace receives by faith, religion receives/rejects by works
31. Grace closes the case, religion is still waiting for the verdict
32. Grace purposes in your heart, religion performs in your flesh
33. Grace gives what you don't deserve, religion gives what you deserve

We are Christians because Christ gave us grace not because we follow Christ's religion  
Receiving grace is a great blessing, but giving grace is greater still