

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK 21: Leader Study Guide

LAW/ GOSPEL Distinction PART 1

-Welcome!

-Intro: Thanks for being here! Revisit last week's points

****point everyone to PODCAST! Fcamx.com/gospeldrivenathlete**

**Exchange numbers or invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

INTRO:

Hi, and welcome to Every Track Every Week. My name is _____ and I am involved with Texas FCA Motocross through _____. I've been involved with FCA MX for _____ years and my favorite thing about the ministry is _____.

This week's discussion is based upon episode #40 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete" titled, "Law Gospel Distinction Part 1"

Theodore Beza (a well-respected, old, dead churchman) is credited with saying, "Ignorance of the distinction between the Law and Gospel is one of the principle sources of all the abuses which corrupt and still corrupt Christianity."

If we are going to discuss the distinction between law and gospel, we must first determine with the law and the gospel actually are. Law is a moral code that is reflective of God's own nature. The law is revealed in the Bible and it is written on our hearts. The 10 commandments are a good example. In the New Testament God summed up the Law and said that Loving God and Loving neighbor was what the law boiled down to. We all have the law written on our hearts which is proven by our God-given consciences.

The gospel, on the other hand, means good news. The gospel is the most surprising aspect of God as we know him. The gospel is God's reaction to man's breaking God's requirement of perfect obedience. This week we will talk about the distinction between the two and why it matters for us here today. If it is true, as Theodore Beza said, that confusion of the two is the main source of all the abuses within



Christianity, we should definitely devote some time here!

-Ice Breaker Question: Have you every accidentally broken the law? Did you get caught?

Question 1: Have you ever heard of the Law of God? Do you know where we find it in scripture?

Answer:

1) The Creation Account: **Genesis 2**

2) The Law is a moral code that is reflective of Gods own nature. The law is revealed in the Bible and it is written on our hearts. The 10 commandments are a good example. In the New Testament God summed up the Law and said that Loving God and Loving neighbor was what the law boiled down to. We all have the law written on our hearts which is proven by our God-given consciences. We are all born knowing it is wrong to lie, steal, etc. (**Romans 2:14**)

3) When God orders that we obey the law, it is called a command. We see the first example of this in **Genesis 2**. This is Gods first covenant with man (bilateral).

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat. For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 2:15-17

-So basically, the covenant was a “DO THIS AND LIVE” covenant.

-This type of covenant is LAW.

Question 2: What is the gospel and where can we find it in scripture?

Answer:

1) The gospel means good news. The gospel is the most surprising aspect of God as we know him. The gospel is Gods reaction to mans breaking of the first covenant. Man violated the covenant made in the garden and failed to uphold his end, so by his incredible grace, God makes a second covenant. That covenant is foreshadowed in the very next chapter, **Genesis 3**.



“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” -Genesis 3:15

-God is in essence promising and covenanting to redeem what man had just messed up. This is a unilateral covenant one that God promises to unconditionally fulfill.

2) Because we have the New Testament we know that Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the gospel.

3) The good news is that despite the fact that we violate constantly the covenant of works (the law), that God descends to us in the person of Jesus and fulfills it on our behalf. God declares the Son as righteous and then the Son willingly subjects himself to the wrath of God in our place. After his death he is raised from the dead.

4) The gospel is Gods unconditional covenant to save us.

Question 3: What is the difference between the two (law and gospel)?

Answer:

1) The law says, “Do this and live.” It is conditional. The gospel declares that in Christ “you live, therefore do this!”

2) The two covenants of scripture present two ways to be saved. In the first, the law, perfect obedience is required. This obedience is truly perfect obedience in thought, word, and deed. This is God’s command to be perfect. Had Adam obeyed what God said he would have continued to live forever and merited eternal life. However, because he sinned, and in him we sinned and continue to sin, we are cursed and stained with sin, therefore meriting eternal life through obedience is impossible for us.

The second and only tangible way for us to be saved is through the righteousness of another. This is the gospel, or Gods announcement of great news! It is through the person and work of Jesus Christ fulfilling Gods covenant as made to Adam and Eve right when they sinned. Jesus Christ came and fulfilled all righteousness perfectly meriting salvation. He obeyed God’s commands and then took the



punishment we deserve and became a substitute so that we could go free.

3) It is important that we realize that the only way we are made right with God and grow in our relationship with God is by understanding the covenant of grace. The gospel. As we rest in Christ and come to know him and his work at a deeper level, we will start to obey God out of sheer gratitude for the lengths that he has gone to save a people that had nothing to offer.

Question 4: How should understanding this inform our attitudes, actions, and lives?

