

La La Land or Law Law Land

It seems that most people are uncomfortable with shades of gray, especially with respect to Christian theology. Most of us like to wrap up our religious, moral and ethical concepts into neat little “dualistic” packages. We view people as either saved or lost, basically good or basically bad, saved by grace or saved by works, spiritual or carnal, and going to only one of two places when we die, Heaven or Hell.

Some of us live in spiritual La La Land, and view Christian salvation as something that is a gift of God, given by grace, with no judgment of their sins after that. They view their conversion experience as obtaining a ticket into Heaven where they will not be held accountable for their sins.

Others live in spiritual Law Law Land, and view Christian salvation in the same dualistic terms, but instead of being saved by grace apart from works, they view it as something that one achieves by obeying God’s laws. Hopefully, on judgment day after they die, the scales of God’s justice will weigh in their favor.

Whether in politics, religion or everyday life, the truth of the matter generally lies somewhere in the middle. We are saved by grace, apart from obedience to the Law, but we are still held accountable by God for every sinful thought or action, even every careless spoken or unspoken word. Being saved by grace, does not exempt us from the “Law of Sowing and Reaping.” God doesn’t stop loving us when we fall into sin. However, because He loves us He allows us to suffer the negative consequences of our sinful actions in order that we might grow and learn from those experiences. What loving and caring human father would not do the same for his children?

*“...the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”
Hebrews 12:6*