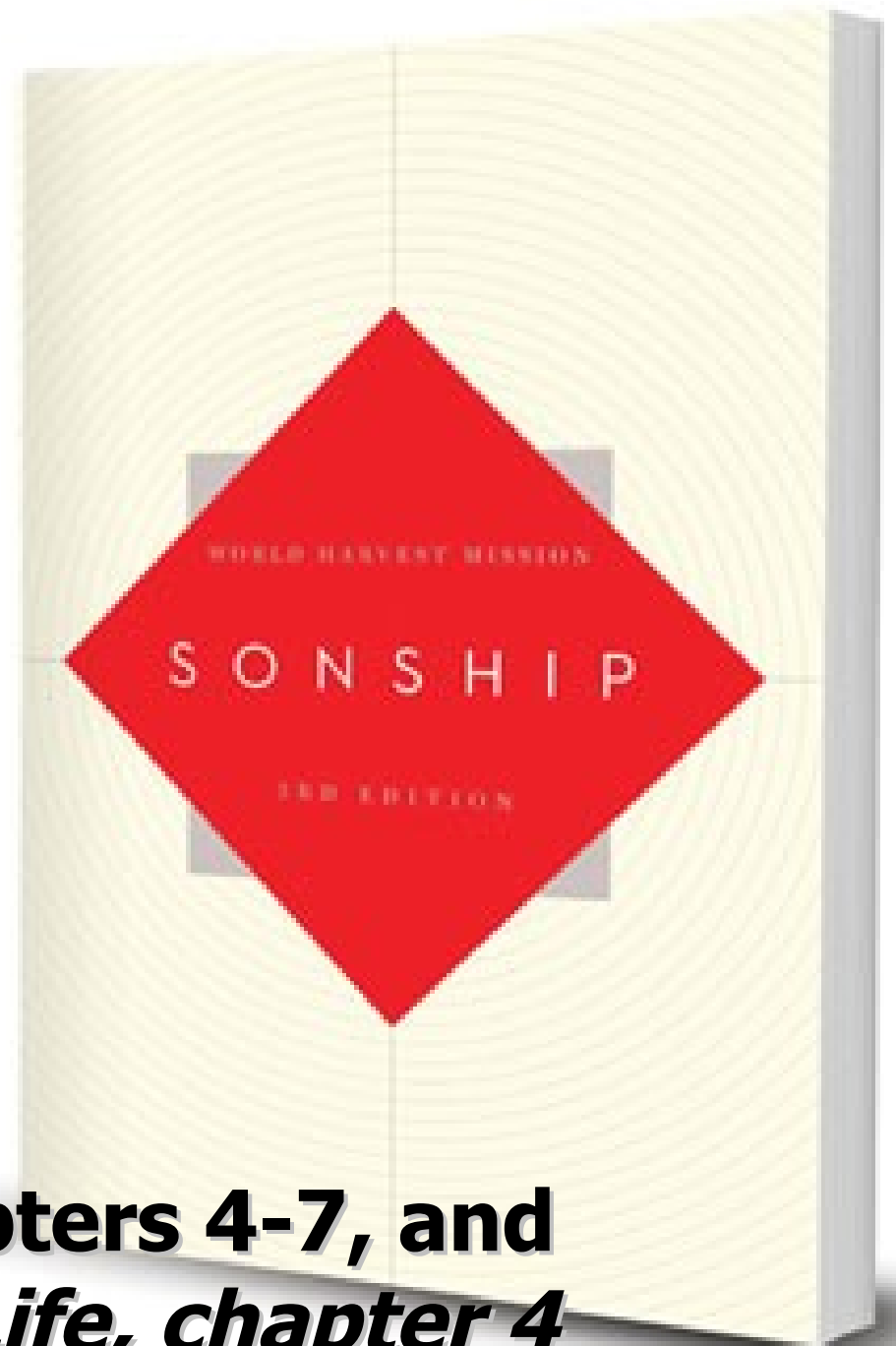
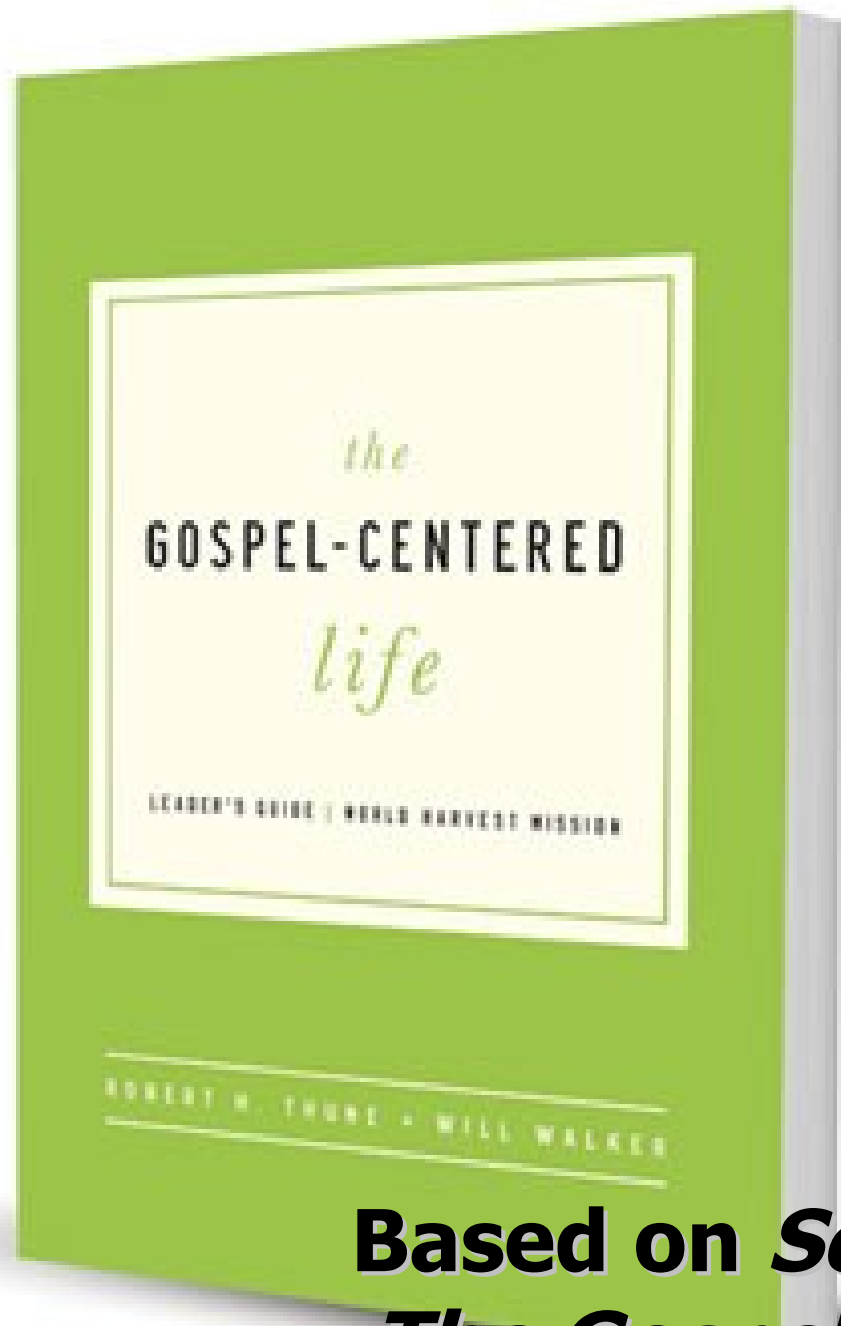


Gospel-Centered Living



Justification:
The Christian & The Law of God



**Based on *Sonship*, chapters 4-7, and
The Gospel-Centered Life, chapter 4**

Realizing the Holiness of God

Realizing the depth of my sin

Review

- “Growing in the gospel means seeing more of God’s holiness and more of my sin... and then believing the Gospel more”
- **2 Peter 1** Don’t forget & fall back into orphan mode! (or that of a criminal who has been merely pardoned but not given a clean record)
- Believe that He has really made you righteous. (**Received righteousness**)
- Believe that your identity is truly that of God’s child. (**Adoption**)

Legalism or License?

Romans 10:4 ...Christ is the end (*telos*) of the law... for every believer.

Matthew 5:17-18 I did not come to undo ... Therefore, whoever might loosen one of the least of these commandments ... will be called least in the kingdom...



Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

τελος γαρ νομου χριστος εις δικαιοσυνην παντι
τω πιστευοντι



Matthew 5:17-20 (NAW)

Don't y'all start assuming that I came to undo (καταλυσαι) the law or the prophets; I did not come to undo but rather to fulfill (πληρωσαι). For really, I'm telling you that until whenever the heavens and the earth pass on, neither one 'i' nor one serif shall ever pass on from the law until whenever everything shall have happened. Therefore, whoever might loosen one of the least of these commandments and teach the men thus, he will be called least in the kingdom of the heavens. But whoever might do and teach thus, this man will be called great in the kingdom of the heavens, for I'm telling you that unless your righteousness exceeds beyond the Scribes' and Pharisees' you will never enter into the kingdom of the heavens.



Defining “Law”

- ✓ **Civil law and order** (Prov. 29:18 Where *there is* no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy *is* he who keeps the law.) – Good to keep the world from being as bad as it can possibly be.
- ✓ **Moral law** – Believers obeying God’s commands and growing in Christlike character
- ✗ **Path to salvation**
 - » The way to be right and safe
 - » Only for Jesus
 - » Mostly today’s topic



LEGALISM: Uses Law to be Right / Safe

Rigged righteousness: Selecting/Making up rules that I can keep but others can't

Power playing: Using rules to manipulate others through their shame & desire to be right

Symptoms:

- comparing self with others,
- wanting to be recognized,
- worrying about reputation,
- keeping up appearances,
- preoccupation with proving opponents wrong

Laws that point to you instead of Christ are perverse



Law Exposes Sin; Doesn't Fix It

Romans 4:15 For the law works out wrath, for where law does not exist, transgression doesn't exist either.

Romans 5:20 So law came in to play in order that the offense might abound...

Romans 7:7-13 ... I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." ... apart from the law sin *was* dead... For sin, taking occasion by the commandment... killed *me*. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good... but sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.



Law Teaches Us To Go To Jesus

Galatians 3:19-24 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions... For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**



Justified by Lawkeeping or by Faith?

GALATIANS 3:10-14 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM." (Deut. 27:26) 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." (Hab. 2:4) 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "THE MAN WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." (Lev. 18:5) 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" – Deut. 21:23), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles (Gen. 12:3) in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.



Ways to Fight Legalism

- “The only way to get rid of sin is to admit it, for, without honesty, repentance forgiveness and grace are impossible. The Christian does not go around all the time feeling guilty. For him, sin is a burden he can lay down, for he can admit it, repent and be forgiven.” ~J. Davidman
- Instead of using law to make you look strong and good, use God’s law to bring you to confession of sin and repentance.
- **James 4:6-10** ..."God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil... Cleanse your hands, you sinners... mourn and weep! ...Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
- This also teaches your children how to fight sin (Ezra 10:1)



Fighting Legalism When You Are Criticized

- “When we come to [Jesus]... the struggle for righteousness is over and He becomes our reputation and glory... You no longer have to prove that you are right and o.k., because your identity with God is right and secure.” ~Jack Miller, *Sonship*
- Secure your identity in the righteousness you have received from God and in your status as God’s adopted child.
- Thank people for their critique rather than punishing them with your defense.
- Spend time considering what sins this reveals in you, and lay them on Jesus.
- Consider the needs of the person who is criticizing you and how you can help them love Jesus more. (Christocentric rather than self-centered response)



License To Ignore God's Law?

- **Romans 10:4** ...Christ is the end (*telos*) of the law... for every believer.
- **Romans 6:14-18** ... you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.



Change In #3 Doesn't Make #1 & #2 Go Away

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The Way to Fight Licentiousness

- Spend time with God, just enjoying His presence.
- His holiness should cure your lackadaisical feelings.
- If you don't feel like He is there, remind yourself of your received righteousness and your adoption.
- Think about what He is like and what He is interested in.
- “License... destroys genuine prayer, for it does not pray. It... seeks self-gratification from things in this world... [so] pray... a bold, daring, and risky prayer...” ~Sonship, p.89



Believers Obey God's Moral Law

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

Romans 13:8b-9 ...he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "you shall not commit adultery," "you shall not murder," "you shall not steal," ... are all summed up in this saying, namely, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

John 14:23 ..."If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our mansion (v.2) with him."

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

