

# IMPACT

January 2014

Quality of Life-Effective Leadership-Personal Growth

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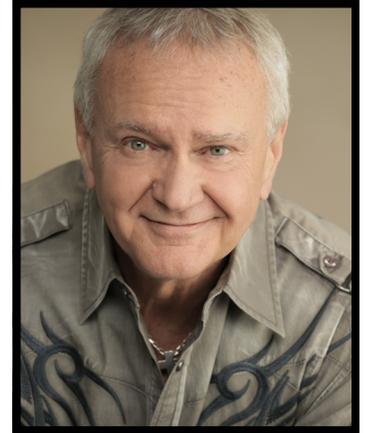
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## THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY:

*The Eternal Struggle*

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# THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY: *The Eternal Struggle*



**T**he mystery of iniquity is the most evil, deceitful, and deadly force that works in the world today. It has been the demise of all who have fallen, the impotence in the Church, and the destruction of all nations. Yet, iniquity is not understood or recognized by most of the Church world. “Iniquity” is one of those words that we tend to consider synonymous with the word “sin.” However, we must remember, there are nine different Greek words for “sin” and each of them means something completely different. There are, however, at least two things they all have in common: first, all sin has its roots in iniquity; second, all sin causes man to experience himself and his quality of life less than God has provided!

The word “iniquity” comes from a Greek word that means “no law.” Or, it could mean “anti-law.” Unfortunately, when people think of the word “law” they tend to think of the Ten Commandments or the law of the Old Testament with the implication of rules for earning righteousness. Sadly, some people have come to consider law a negative thing. We foolishly fail to understand the entire world and all that exists is held together by laws that God has put in place. The Book of Hebrews says all things are upheld *by the word of his power* (Heb. 1:3). Without the presence of physical laws the entire universe would plunge into chaos. The purpose of laws is just that - to maintain order.

The psalmist asked: *if the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do?* The foundation of all things is the Word of God, not just the foundation of the physical universe! The Word of God is the basis for social order, judicial fairness, healthy relationships, economic stability, physical health, our relationship with God, and all things that pertain to life. Without His laws the foundation of all social order falls into chaos and collapses. As we look at society today we should easily see that to the degree man has rejected God’s values, morals, and standards (law) our nation has fallen into chaos, just as it has in all nations that reject God’s Word!

As the Creator, God determined how all things would function. Then, as a loving Father He explained to us through

His Word how to have the very best life has to offer based on compliance with all the physical, spiritual, and emotional laws. The person with a crooked heart considers this compliance to be legalism. They fail to understand that we must live in harmony with the laws that are designed to give us life.

The Book of Proverbs is filled with prescriptions for a long life, peace, health, and prosperity! The word “commandment” can mean “a divine prescription.” That’s right! None of the commandments were given so we could earn anything from God. They were given by a loving Creator so we would know how to live harmoniously with one another. Here is a great example: *Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man’s wife* (Pr. 6:27-28). Just as surely as we will be physically burned if we violate these natural laws we will suffer consequences if we violate the laws of social order.

The word “iniquity” is like many words in the Bible. It represents a continuum: something God said that was recorded in His Word, is influenced by our heart, is expressed in our behavior, and has consequences! If we put fire in our lap God doesn’t make an arbitrary decision about whether or not it will burn our clothes. It is going to happen by immutable laws. Likewise, when we violate any of God’s laws that teach us how to relate to our fellow man He doesn’t decide and measure out the consequence. We experience the law of sowing and reaping!

Scripture reveals that Lucifer wanted to be God. Through corrupt reasoning he considered all his glory (which was given by God) something that should give him the right to determine things independently of God. When Satan was cast out of Heaven it seems that he set his heart on that which was most precious to God. Since Planet Earth would be the

abode of God's children, the home of New Jerusalem, and the seat of God's eternal reign, he set his heart on Planet Earth as his domain. And as the only way to discredit God he set his heart to alienate God's children from their heavenly Father. All of this led to the temptation in the Garden!

God had given Adam and Eve clear instructions about how to enjoy all the provisions of the Garden. But at some point in time the serpent began a conversation with Eve that affected the way she saw herself and her trust for God. After undermining Adam and Eve's sense of identity Satan, through their mistrust, introduced iniquity into the world.

The original temptation offered the subtle deception: if you eat the forbidden fruit you will be like God. The one characteristic that would make him a god was the ability to choose good and evil for himself. Man was already like God; he was created in the likeness and image of God. But up until this time man relied on God's instructions concerning all matters of life. So, after undermining man's confidence in God, Satan offered him the opportunity to be his own god. The only one who has the right to choose good and bad, right and wrong is the Creator of the system. For a man to choose good and evil for himself he had to first reject God's law and replace it with his own view and opinion.

This was the birth of iniquity in Planet Earth. This was just one phase in the eternal struggle which will consummate in the rise of the antichrist. God had given authority in Planet Earth to man. Satan knew he had no authority on Earth. He could not arbitrarily kill and destroy. He needed man to reject God's laws. He didn't need for man to be a Satanist; he just needed for man to abandon God's values, morals, and standards (law) for his own opinion; thus, the birth of Humanism!

Humanism has given birth to every false religion, corrupt philosophy, cult, and government in the world! It has been the erosion of God's morals, values, and standards (laws) that has paved the way for the eventual uprising of the antichrist. Humanism is the earliest expression of Satanism. It is a form of self-worship and self-exaltation!

Everything God has ever commanded of man was for man's own good. God has always desired for man to have the very best that creation had to offer. Once iniquity entered man's heart he twisted God's Word. Through his desire to be free from God's laws he interpreted the divine prescription for life to be a means of control by a vengeful God. Out of his own corrupt heart he conceived an image of God totally independent of all God had said and done. He labelled God as a harsh controller who required perfect obedience. Man twisted God's commands into a requirement that would earn him God's love and acceptance rather than a divine prescription for an incredible life.

This original temptation - choosing good and evil for ourselves - is the spirit of iniquity. It is the eternal struggle which began with Lucifer, was ushered into Planet Earth through the fall, and will continue until the return of the Lord Jesus. Every sorrow, every woe, every struggle, and every pain of mankind has been the result of honoring our own opinion over the Word of God's truth.

*The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ* (Jn. 1:17). Jesus, according to His own words, did not come to do away with the law. He came to show us the truth. The law is just words written on a page. The letter kills because of the way man interpreted it. But truth is law as it should have been applied. That can only be seen in the life of Jesus. He is the only person who ever perfectly obeyed the law; yet, for Him it was an expression of love and kindness.

Our struggle with the law still rests in our lack of trust in a perfectly loving God. We don't know how to value the law without turning it to legalism. Only when the law is applied in love through a heart that has been empowered by grace does it have value. The paradox is this: we are delivered from the law for our righteousness, but when we walk in love we will fulfill the law.

The rejection of the law as God's standards, values, and morals will be one of the primary factors that cause much of the Church and the world to fall into the deception of the antichrist. In the name of freedom people will become slaves to that which has brought death since the Garden: iniquity!

This article is based on the series, *The Mystery of Iniquity: The Enemy of Grace*. Be sure and see the ad on page 6.



# January Testimonies

Dear Impact Ministries,

I felt led to share my testimony with you. Praise God, He is good. I am a soldier in the Army. I've been a combat medic for over 6 years. I was deployed to Iraq in 08-09 where I experienced different traumatic events – everything from being mortared to witnessing people being blown up and killed.

God protected me and spared my life on more than one occasion. I believed in Psalm 91 and prayed it often. After I came back from deployment I began to realize that something had changed inside of me. I felt dead. I didn't really know what was happening to me--- It was like my life was spinning out of control and there was nothing I could do to stop it.

I began to act and do things that weren't like me. I started drinking. I became very angry and cynical. I didn't want to be around people. I could no longer experience God's goodness. I was reckless with my life which resulted in a snowboarding accident that could have killed me but, once again, God in His mercy was looking out for me. I was also very depressed, suicidal, and the emotional pain I had seemed so great the only relief was found in harming myself.



I managed to keep most of this hidden for a time until I was stationed in Tokyo, Japan where I experienced the Great Earthquake and the tsunami, and then our medical unit was faced with a subsequent nuclear disaster.

This is when my life began to fall apart. All of this seemed to have reawakened the baggage from Iraq. I started having breakdowns. They put me on medication and moved me from my normal duties as a medic, which for me was humiliating. I was diagnosed with PTSD, depression, anxiety, and migraines. Eventually I returned to the States to begin a medical retirement procedure since I was no longer considered fit for duty. I've tried many things and I've talked to many healthcare professionals, but nothing was really helping this go away.

I guess my mother heard Dr. Richards speak and learned about **Heart Physics**.<sup>®</sup> She ordered it and then proceeded to bug me for months to try it. I resisted, but eventually she wore me down. Praise God for loving, persistent moms!

I started **Heart Physics**<sup>®</sup> at first only doing it off and on, but I began to notice little changes in myself. Most of all I felt a renewed sense of hope and emotional stability. That's when I decided to get serious about this program. I've since done **Heart Physics**<sup>®</sup> three times. It's been two years and slowly I've experienced deep inner healing. I believe this meditation opened the door for God to work in me! I am a completely different person now! I hear God's voice, I know my purpose, and I know my identity in Him.

I will be out of the military soon. I am excited about the next chapter of my life as someone who is whole, not broken. I wanted to sincerely thank your ministry and your obedience to teach God's principles. I am passing on what I have learned to others. There are many soldiers who need **hope**.

Sincerely in Christ, ~EK~



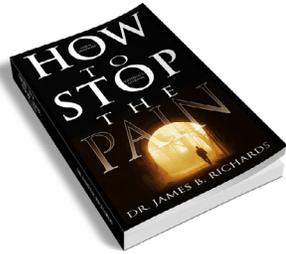
Learning to know God the way that Dr. Richards has taught me has opened my eyes. It's truly like being in the dark and a light being turned on. Thank you! ~CF~

Thanks so much for the blessing you have been to us this year. We appreciate Impact Ministries and all of your staff so much. We love being a part of God's (and Impact's) WORLD CHANGERS! ~J&JD~

Your books have been such a blessing to me and our study group! ~JG~

Jim,

I just re-read *How to Stop the Pain* and must say it resonates as truth even more than when I first read it! Thanks for being obedient to the Holy Spirit to write it! ~BW~



Dear Impact,

How does one say thank you for doing what you do?

Over two years ago my husband of 19 years ended our marriage and family. At the time I didn't know there was another woman. I'm sure you have heard the story before: deep feelings of shock, confusion, and hurt. I could go on and on but I choose not to. This same determination is exactly how I chose to want more, to change my destiny, to overcome these feelings, to live healed, happy, and at peace.

Then the message Jim speaks came to me through the book, *How to Stop the Pain*. After reading it and going through *Heart Physics*® I wanted and needed to know and hear more. My mind was enlightened and I knew it was the truth. I was hungry for peace. Jim came to Prince George, BC for a conference. I decided I would sit and take in his words and not try to understand with my mind but allow it to go to my heart. Although I don't remember exactly what he taught, I know that I was set straight on the right path.

I won't deny that the last two years have been a journey in more ways than I can explain. I can say, though, that I have overcome every situation I've had to face all the 'junk' that

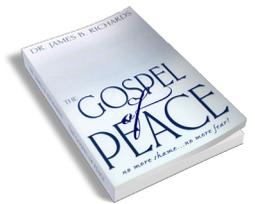


broken families go through. Using some of the techniques I've learned from Impact and knowing that I am in Christ and Christ is in me has been so liberating. Being able to hear the voice of my Father has benefitted me in so many ways and led me to overcome possible destructive situations. I have no fear, guilt, shame, or condemnation, only value, worthiness, and peace - the good stuff! I think the neatest thing is that I can now see the value and worthiness in other people, even my ex-husband; therefore, I am able to give good stuff and receive good stuff from others.

Awesome things are here and more to come for me. Thanks, Impact, for making a difference! ~SG~

Very good material! I saw Jim twice at Gateway in DFW this year and I'm currently reading *Moving Your Invisible Boundaries*. I believe *The Gospel of Peace* is one of the best books I've ever read.

Thank you for sharing! ~BB~



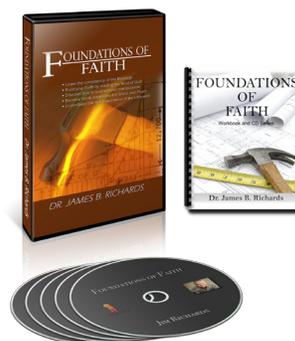
We have been truly blessed by Dr. Richards' teaching. My husband and I left the physical, organized church about six years ago. We have been diligently seeking truth that teaches LOVE as the overriding truth of Jeshua.

We had been verbally abused and had several very ungodly acts of violence committed against us and our mature children and our grandchildren. We felt we had to "come out of the church of man."

I heard Dr. Richards on *My New Day* just over a year ago and knew we had come across teachings that were Holy Spirit inspired. The more I listened the freer I became. My husband started to sit with me and listen to the programs and he admitted they made him feel valued by God. That was a breakthrough. He is a very humble and honorable man who walks quietly with his Savior. This really touched him deeply.

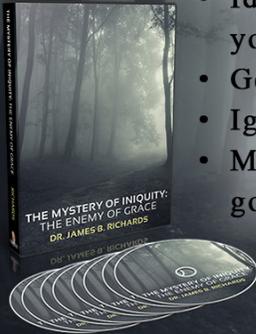
We have purchased many of your materials and have become **World Changers** by financially partnering with your ministry. We are so thankful for Impact Ministries and readily share your FREE teaching on *Foundations of Faith* among our friends and family as they request it because they have seen such a change in our lives.

Blessings to you!  
~J&PF~



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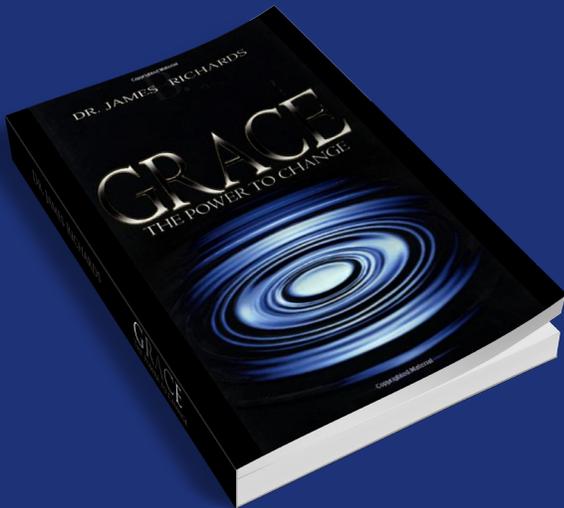
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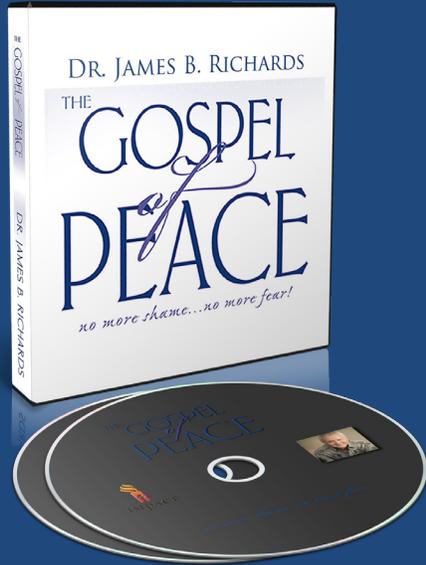
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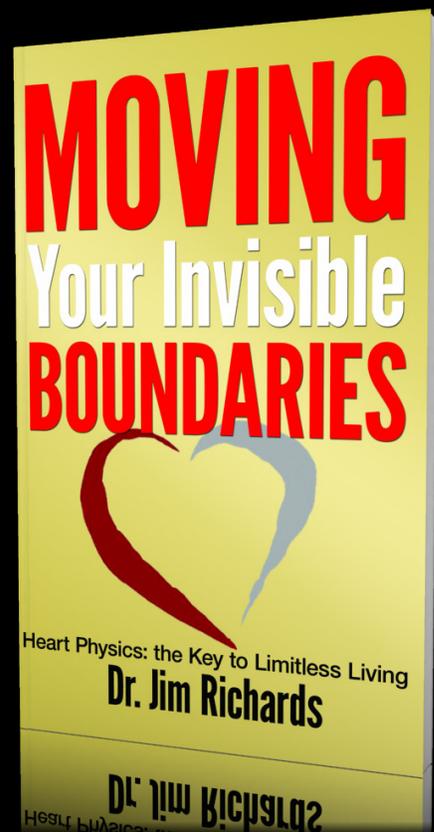
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# THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY: *The Enemy of Social Order*

**T**he Bible says, *the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared* (John 1:17-18). One of the problems with understanding the law was that no one had ever actually seen what it would look like when applied. In ancient times men who had a sinful nature and a crooked heart heard what God said and then interpreted it based on their own crooked heart!

Immediately after the fall Adam became afraid of God. When God called out to him for reconciliation Adam hid from Him for fear that God had come for vengeance (Gen. 3:8-10). No matter how many times God explained His reason for giving the law man twisted it into a religious, man-centered (humanistic) ritual that negated the very love expressed in God's efforts!

Man needed to see what God's law looked like when expressed as He actually intended! So, the Word was made flesh in the form of Jesus! Jesus is the only man to ever obey God's laws perfectly. In doing so you never saw Him make a healthy person sick, you didn't see Him load religious burdens on people's backs, and He was never condemning! He applied God's Word (laws) from the perspective of love.

In Matthew chapters 5 through 7 Jesus draws a number of comparisons between the Pharisees' application of the law and His application of the law. He explains that *He did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it*. The word "fulfill" doesn't mean to "do away," it means "to bring to its completion or goal!"

Then He makes a statement that shook me to the core when I first read it as a new believer: *unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven* (Matt. 5:20). For the rest of chapter 5 all the way to the end of chapter 7 He draws comparison to the righteousness of the Pharisees and the righteousness that He brings. Keep in mind the word "righteousness" means "as it should be." And the Pharisees were walking in the law based on their interpretations to be

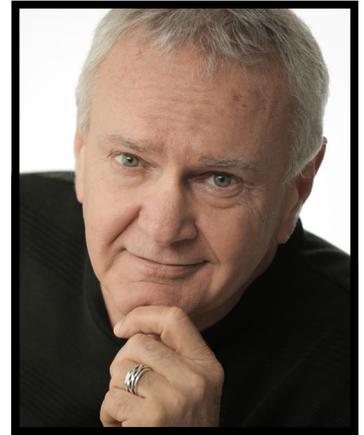
righteous... as they should be according to the law.

Righteousness and iniquity are both words that represent a continuum: something God says, it is recorded in a book, it is interpreted and empowered by the heart, affects our emotions, dictates our behavior, and carries consequences. Their crooked heart twisted God's Word (law) into something that had nothing to do with love. When God's Word is not interpreted and expressed through love it is no longer truth.

Moses gave us the law. Jesus didn't do away with law; He freed us from the letter of the law, the outward legalistic observation, and the corrupt interpretation and application of the law. He actually gave us something more demanding than the law. He gave us the law and it had to be applied from the motive of love. Love turns the law into truth, and truth will set you free!

The law was a set of instructions teaching us how to live in harmony with the natural world, our natural body, and our fellow man! Listen to the words of Paul: *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law* (Rom. 13:8-10). Love (God's love, not humanistic love) never does any harm to its neighbor! The Pharisees used the law to do harm, to control, to dominate, and to oppress!

In Matthew 5 Jesus explains if you owe your brother money and don't pay you'll go to prison and you won't come out until you have paid back the last penny. Why? Because the law, which governs honesty, requires it! And that law



was given to keep people from defrauding others! Then He says something shocking to the religious-minded: If you are presenting your gift to God and realize your brother has a case of nonpayment (ought) against you, it is more important for you to go repay your brother than it is to present a gift to God! This is straight out of the law!

When people tell me they are free from the law I wonder, “Does that mean you no longer pay your bills? You don’t keep your word? You commit adultery? You use the bathroom in your kitchen floor? You’ve stopped washing your hands after being exposed to disease? ... Exactly what do you mean?” This is one of the greatest paradoxes in the Bible: I am not under the law, but the fact that I am under grace means I won’t sin. I am free from the law for righteousness but I am never free from the law in the way I treat others if I walk in love. I am never laboring to obey the law, but as long as I walk in love I always fulfill the law.

Jesus went on to say the righteousness of the Pharisees says you can hate your enemies; I say you should love them. The Pharisees’ interpretation of the law said: Thou shalt not commit murder. Jesus’ interpretation says, “Don’t be angry with your brother.” Legalism says, “I’m safe if I don’t actually commit adultery.” But love says, “Don’t even let adultery get in your heart i.e., don’t think about it; don’t

imagine it!” The Pharisees’ righteousness says, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*’ *But I tell you not to resist (attack) an evil person.*

The law, when interpreted by love by the righteousness of Christ, gives us the values, morals, and standards whereby we should relate to one another. Yet, it maintains the judicial requirements and penalties. When there is a combination of judicial laws that are based on the way man was created and social laws showing us how to treat one another we have the perfect combination for social order!

America, when it honored the biblical foundation of our Constitution and the influence of godliness, prospered in every arena. The further we have moved from God’s Word the more chaos and disaster have emerged. Humanism, which is the underpinning of Communism, which is the secret parent of Socialism and the philosophical root of Progressivism has conquered most of the world and is now in the final stages of overtaking our nation.

There is no such thing as separation of church and state. That is a perversion of a phrase written by one of our founders. In fact, our founders were very clear about the fact that once the biblical influence was removed from our Constitution our nation would fall and we would lose our liberty! Liberal laws have perverted our justice system as judges and politicians hide away and secretly change the interpretation of our laws with no input from the people. Christians who embrace humanistic and socialistic philosophies more than the laws of God have bought into the new social justice and fairness doctrine and in the name of Jesus reject God’s morals, values, and standards and lead us into an antichrist generation.

The Book of Revelation says that authority is given to the antichrist to reign. We assume that God is the one who gives him that authority, but since man has authority in Planet Earth it has to be man. You see, as the world rejects God’s law for the new social order we become susceptible to the logic of the antichrist! The Humanist really believes peace will come to Earth if we eradicate religion. By that they mean Jews and Christians.

The entire path of the world is following the way of iniquity. When that which holds or restricts lawlessness is taken away the man of lawlessness (iniquity) will appear to establish an entirely new world order based totally on the rejection of God’s values, morals, and standards (laws).

This article is based on the eight-message series, *The Mystery of Iniquity: The Enemy of Grace*. See the ad on page 6.

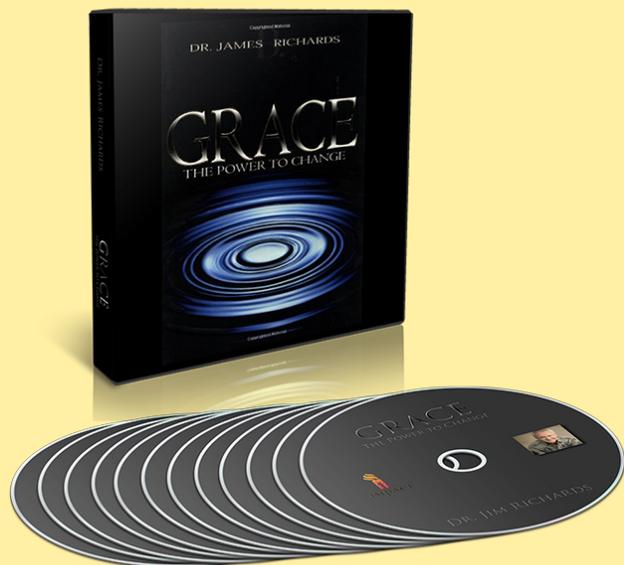
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# THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY:

## *The Enemy of Grace*

**I**n Colossians 1:5-7 Paul rejoiced over the fruit that was abounding in the believers at Colossae as a result of them hearing and believing the true message of grace. *...the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth.* God's Word, when believed in the heart, always brings forth truth. The fruit that manifests in a believer's life is the only real indicator of what they believe! When there is no fruit there are only two possibilities: what they believe is not the truth, or it is the truth and they don't really believe it in their heart.

We would all do well to heed Paul's advice to the Corinthian believers. *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith* (2 Cor. 13:5). Today, as there has always been, there is a counterfeit message of grace. Like most deception it is a doctrinal presentation that is not altogether false. In fact, much of it is true, yet the conclusions reached by its proponents take its unsuspecting followers down a path that undermines the heart of the Gospel and the very foundation of God's standards, values, and morals. Rather than the fruit of this concept of grace being a godly, more victorious life it leads to iniquity and the vile fruit that it brings!

The primary fruit of grace should be twofold: sin totally loses its ability to dominate our lives, and we live in our divine destiny. *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace* (Rom.6:14). Instead, this error presents the idea that we have a new found freedom where sin is no longer a concern and any kind of lifestyle can be embraced with no consequences to the individual or the world around them. Paul addressed this heresy: *What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.* It doesn't get much plainer than that!

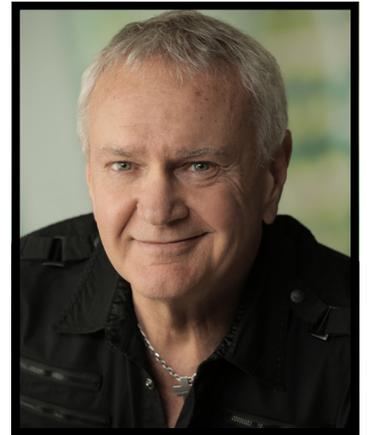
Iniquity has been the eternal struggle between God and the devil and conflict in the minds of men since man's fall in the Garden! Iniquity is the bending, twisting, or perverting of God's Word until it reaches the rejection of His law (standards, morals, values). The biblical term for

this is "antinomianism," Meaning "without law," i.e. "lawlessness or iniquity."

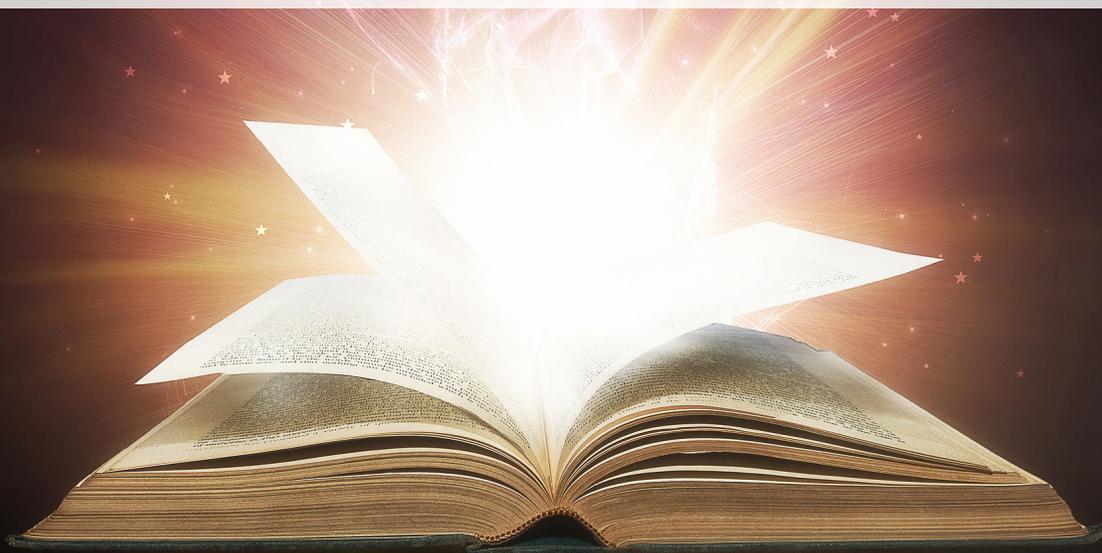
Paul, Peter, and Jesus warned those who have been set free that they should use their freedom to walk in love and serve one another (Gal. 5:1-15, 1 Pt. 2:16 & Jesus' parables). But Paul's most stern warning comes in Romans 6:15-23. *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness, I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.* The entire reason for being set free from the power of sin was to fulfill our divine identity and eternal purpose.

But the Scripture that we must look at in context is Rom. 6:23. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Traditionally people have used this Scripture only in addressing the lost, but when taken in context this is a warning to those who, after having been set free, once again yield themselves as servants of sin. Those who do not use their freedom from the law to become servants of righteousness have received God's *grace in vain* (2 Cor. 6:1).

The word "vain" literally means "empty;" in other words, "to receive grace and not allow it to produce fruit!" Paul explained the proof that he had not received



# The deception in the corrupt doctrine of grace revolves around the rejection of God's morals, values, and standards (the law) as the definition of freedom.



grace in vain. *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me* (1 Cor. 15:10-11). Grace is not just a standing with God. It is not synonymous with mercy. It is a power, ability, strength, and capacity that comes by unmerited favor and works as a divine influence on the heart and makes us able! Grace is not God's capacity to overlook your sin; it is God's capacity to get you out of sin and into a productive life!

The deception in the corrupt doctrine of grace revolves around the rejection of God's morals, values, and standards (the law) as the definition of freedom. Herein lies the paradox: We are free from the law for righteousness (Rom. 10:3), but if we walk in love we will fulfill all of the law (Rom. 13:8)! Jesus set us free from bondage to the law and gave us grace to walk in the truth: the law applied in love the way God originally intended (Jn. 1:16-17). We have been freed from serving God by observing the letter of the law, but if we serve in the Spirit and walk in love we will still fulfill the law (Rom. 7:6). We are free from the law as it was applied in the Old Covenant, yet the law and all that it implies is written on our heart to guide all of our actions (Heb. 8:10-13).

The false grace movement has fallen into the same deception of iniquity as the world. The world, especially the left, believes that the eradication of God's morals, values, and standards (law) will bring freedom. The false grace movement believes the same thing. They fail to understand that rejecting God's law as the essential standard for a peaceful society is actually what gives rise to total anarchy, giving rise to the antichrist.

The Apostle John gave a sobering warning about who we can and cannot help. His first epistle was written to believers who were embracing Gnosticism. The Gnostics among other things believed that sin would not hurt the believer; it was something done in the flesh and wasn't really them committing it. John sought to show them they had, in fact, stopped walking in the light and were no longer in fellowship with Jesus. In 1 John 3:4-6 he states: *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.* Sin (missing the mark of the goal, living beneath who we really are in Jesus) is always the result of iniquity (lawlessness). In other words, it occurs when we reject God's standards, values, and morals as presented in the Word, which is what

happens when we stop walking in love. When we no longer accept God's Word as the standard there is no basis for grace to work in our life!

He follows this thought all the way through to the end of chapter 5 when he says, *If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death* (1 Jn. 5:16-17). There are people we cannot help. There are people God cannot help. Those who regard iniquity in their heart have no place for God in their thoughts (Ps. 10:3-4). They are proud. Their own imagination is their standard of right and wrong, good and evil. They are a god to themselves! Grace makes us able to do and be what God says. If there is no desire, intention, or commitment to God's standards grace does not work. Grace, after all, reigns through righteousness.

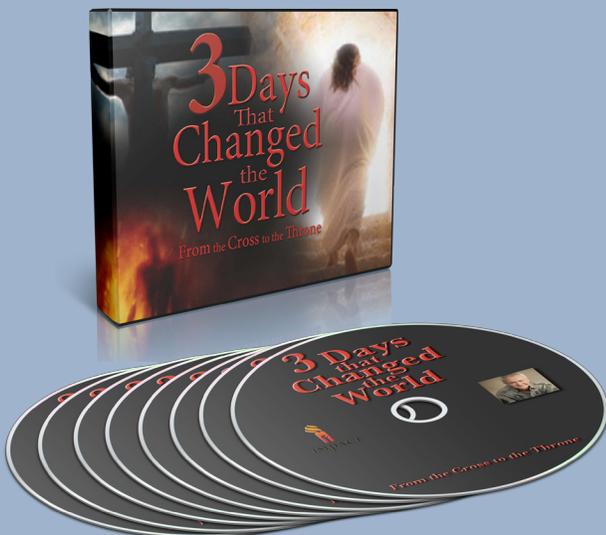
I am convinced that the *sin leading to death* is iniquity, lawlessness, and the rejection of God's law as our morals, values, and standards! While all sin is based on iniquity, not all sin is driven by a heart rooted in iniquity: the enemy of grace! The person bound in legalism has rejected grace but that person can be recovered because he still has value for God's Word. But the person bound in iniquity has rejected God's Word! He has no basis to receive help from God!

In order to guard our heart from being swept up in the spirit that is deceiving the whole world we must always examine ourselves to be sure we are in the faith (fully trusting God and His Word). We must commit ourselves to a life of love as God defines it! We must allow the righteousness of Christ to have its full expression in our thoughts, beliefs, and behavior! We must embrace God's Word as the wisdom of God! We must commit ourselves to the grace of God to live the life to which we have been called! But all of this must come together in a life that is immersed in communion with the Lord Jesus!

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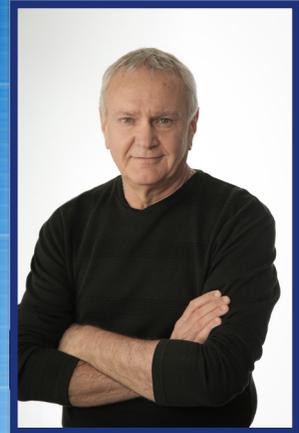
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