

NO CONTENTED CRIPPLES
IN
THE KINGDOM OF GOD

You can't finish the race of life on forgiveness alone, any more than a runner can finish a race on a broken leg. We need healing. We need to be restored.

The Kingdom of God is all about the ultimate and complete restoration, of this universe, and of people. (Isa. 2: 2-4; Isa. 11: 6-9; Isa. 35: 1-10; Micah 4: 1-8; Rom. 8: 18-22)

The false gospel does not provide the seed of hope we need to begin that restoration and healing process. It just adds to our resignation and frustration about this life. We haven't lived the life we were meant to live, and according to the false gospel, it looks like we never will. But, in fact, the future will bring the fulfillment we long for.

The Kingdom of God message is the seed of salvation, which at its foundation, is about healing and restoration. (Compare parallel accounts of Luke 8: 4-12 and Matt: 13: 14-15)

The core of the Kingdom of God message is healing. It is this emphasis that Jesus placed at the beginning of his ministry regarding the Kingdom of God. (Luke 4: 16-20)

Classic example of Jesus preaching the Kingdom of God to people who had the basic idea of what it was all about, but doing so by reaching into the place where people hurt and need to be healed. (Jo. 4: 1-42)

To understand what we need to be healed from, we need to understand where sin comes from, how did we become people with such destructive behaviors. To understand that we notice Paul's comparison of two overarching system belief choices we have in this universe, out of which will flow either the "get" way of life, or the "give" way.

- Rom. 1: 16-18—The gospel is about faith. "Faith to faith" implies a system or law of operation.
- Rom. 3: 27—There is a law of works, and a law of faith.
- Rom. 4:16; 5:2—This law of faith includes the term grace.
- Rom. 6: 14—This law of works holds us captive to sin; whereas the law of faith frees us from that captivity.
- Gal. 3: 12—Faith and works, as systems, are mutually exclusive.

These are systems of how we define what our value and lovability is in the eyes of our Father, and subsequently, in our own eyes as well.

- The law (or system) of works: Our core value and lovability are dependent upon what we know and do with right and wrong.
- The law (or system) of faith: Our core value and lovability are dependent upon nothing but the love of our Father for His child, imperfect and incomplete as he/she is.

The old covenant and new covenant were microcosms of these overarching systems. They are working models through which these systems are explained in the lives of human beings.

The first Adam grasped at being more than human, agreeing (believing) with the deception that he needed to be that in order to be valuable and lovable to God. The second Adam embraced his humanity (false doctrine about his preexistent godhead notwithstanding), not grasping at the godhead. He trusted in his Father's love for him as a human being who needed to learn obedience through the things of life.

One is a system (or law as Paul says) of fear, the other a system of sonship.
Rom. 8: 14-16

There is a glory in us that will be revealed. But we need to ask our Father to come into our hearts to heal us from the wounds we have received in this kingdom, so that we can be free of sin's dominion, and live the lives we were meant to live in His coming Kingdom. Remaining crippled is not an option for those who want to be there.

Rom. 8: 18-19