

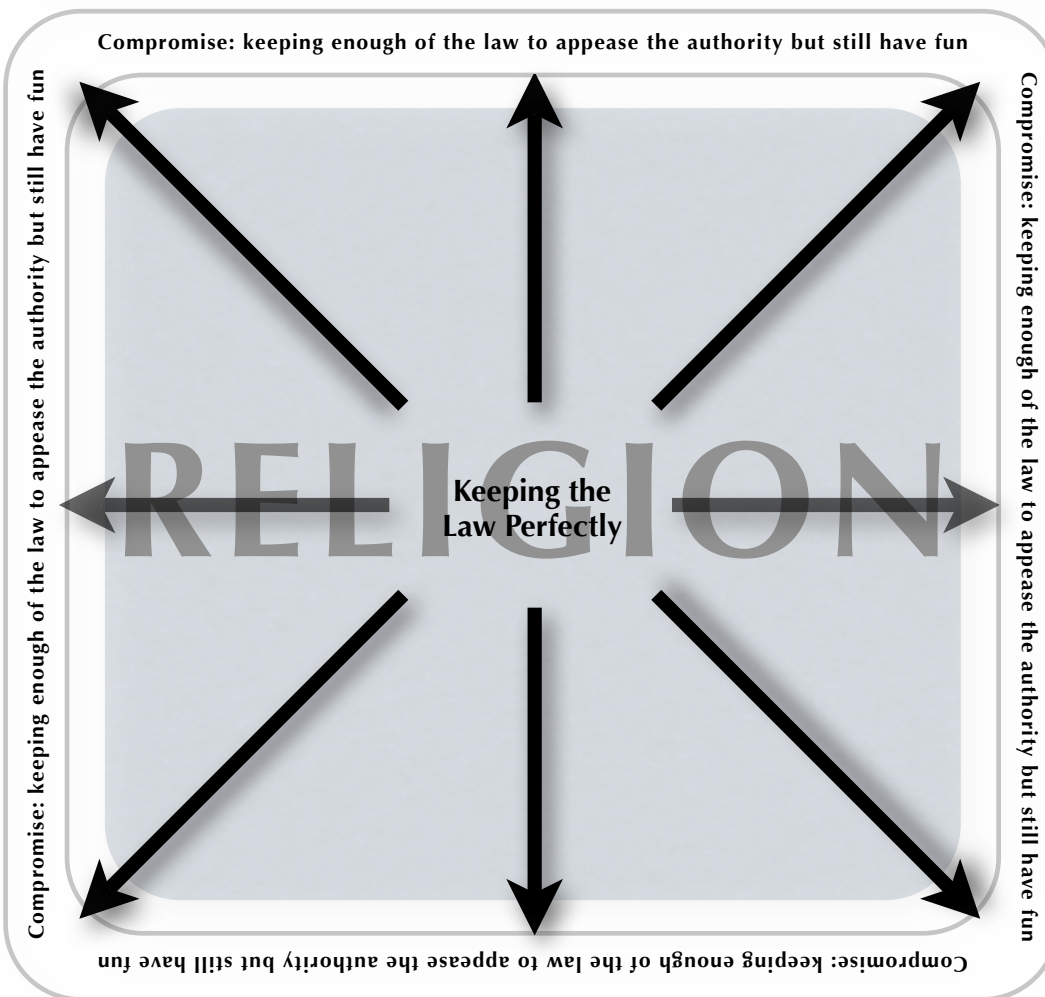
# Why all and any religion is a big fat lie...

Laws exist to prevent a society from collapsing into chaos and anarchy. In the absence of an authority that can impose consequences for violating these laws, mankind would live unchecked in their violent passions and lust for power and pleasure.

When the speed limit is 35 mph, we do 38 mph; because we can get away with it. How fast would we drive if there was no speed limit?

Our tendency to drive 3 or 5 over the speed limit illustrates perfectly how we view the law:

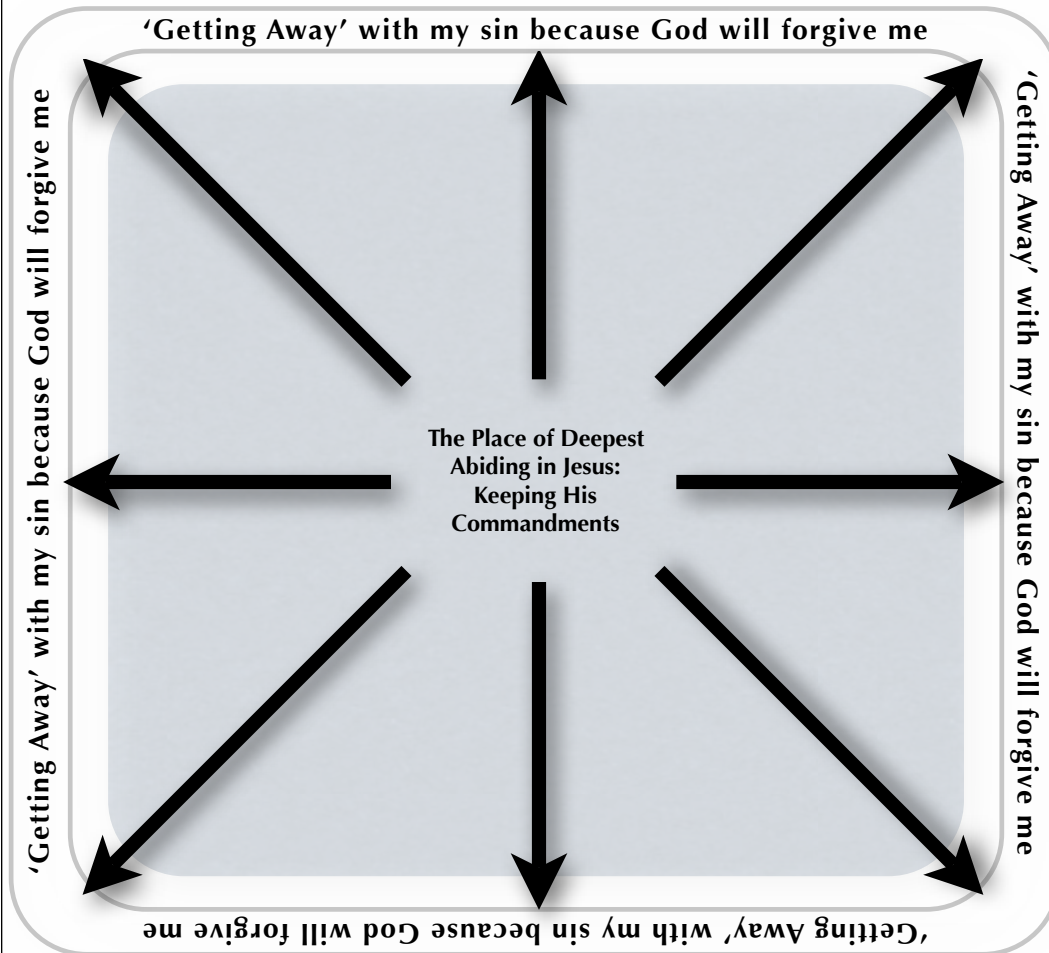
- On one hand, we agree that the law is good because if everyone were to drive 130 mph through city streets, the results would be catastrophic.
- Yet we also disagree with the law and wish that we had the authority to change it. We reason that driving 5 over the speed limit is good and safe and harms no one.
- So we find a happy medium. We break the law when the consequences are petty or when we can do so without being caught. We reason that when the law does not benefit us, we have the right to break it.
- In essence we are not saying that the law is good. We are saying that appeasing the authority of the law is good so that we can avoid wrath or punishment for violating the law of that particular authority.
- Ultimately, we are saying that getting what we want is good. We are simply being realistic by understanding that if we break the law severely, the punishment will outweigh the reward we get from breaking the law.



Essentially, *our human (sinful) nature sets us on a course to get what we want* (the passions of our flesh). This takes a lot of practice because we are in competition with 6 billion people. We might need to compromise for example if someone else were willing to kill us to get what they wanted. We would need to look for it somewhere else or find something else to make us happy. Or, if we want a particular thing from our spouse, they might threaten to divorce us so we would need to decide which would be better - compromise to keep our spouse or get a new spouse. Skillful sinners get what they want while still maintaining a relative peace around them by evading or paying off any authority that would stand in their way.

# Fake, Un-biblical, Non-Jesus Christianity

When we are living in our flesh (either in rebellion or in our own efforts to please God by our own works) we cannot please God (Romans 8:8). The bible is clear that all have violated God's law and deserve eternal death and separation from God in hell (See *Romans 3:23 and 6:23*). And God knows all things so we cannot run or hide from Him. When we receive the salvation that God gives us in His Son, Jesus Christ, works of the flesh must cease for they accomplish nothing.



If we continue to live in our flesh either through **deliberate rebellion from the commands of Jesus** (See *Hebrews 10:26*) or through **attempts to earn God's favor** through keeping His Law we are flushing His grace and goodness down the toilet.

We are in essence saying that God is not good. Instead, we are saying that **living the way we want to live and getting away with it (not ending up in hell) is good**. We acknowledge God's authority yet we do not respect it. We assume that He doesn't care - just like how the police

won't give you a speeding ticket for going 4 or 5 over the speed limit. God will not be mocked in this way. He sees our hearts. Thus it is important that we too see the condition of our own hearts and repent while there is still time to do so.

When we repent, we take what we are currently doing and flush it down the toilet because a new reality has been introduced. For example, if you awoke in the middle of the night to find that your house was on fire, you would immediately repent of staying in your house. New reality, new course.

Jesus said, **'The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the good news!'** (Mark 1:15).

We agree that heaven (having the penalty for our sin paid) is good. But **do we believe that the commandments of Jesus are good news**, full of life, and not burdensome as His Word promises?

*If I don't want to be in the presence of God, listen to His voice and trust that His ways are vastly better than mine...*

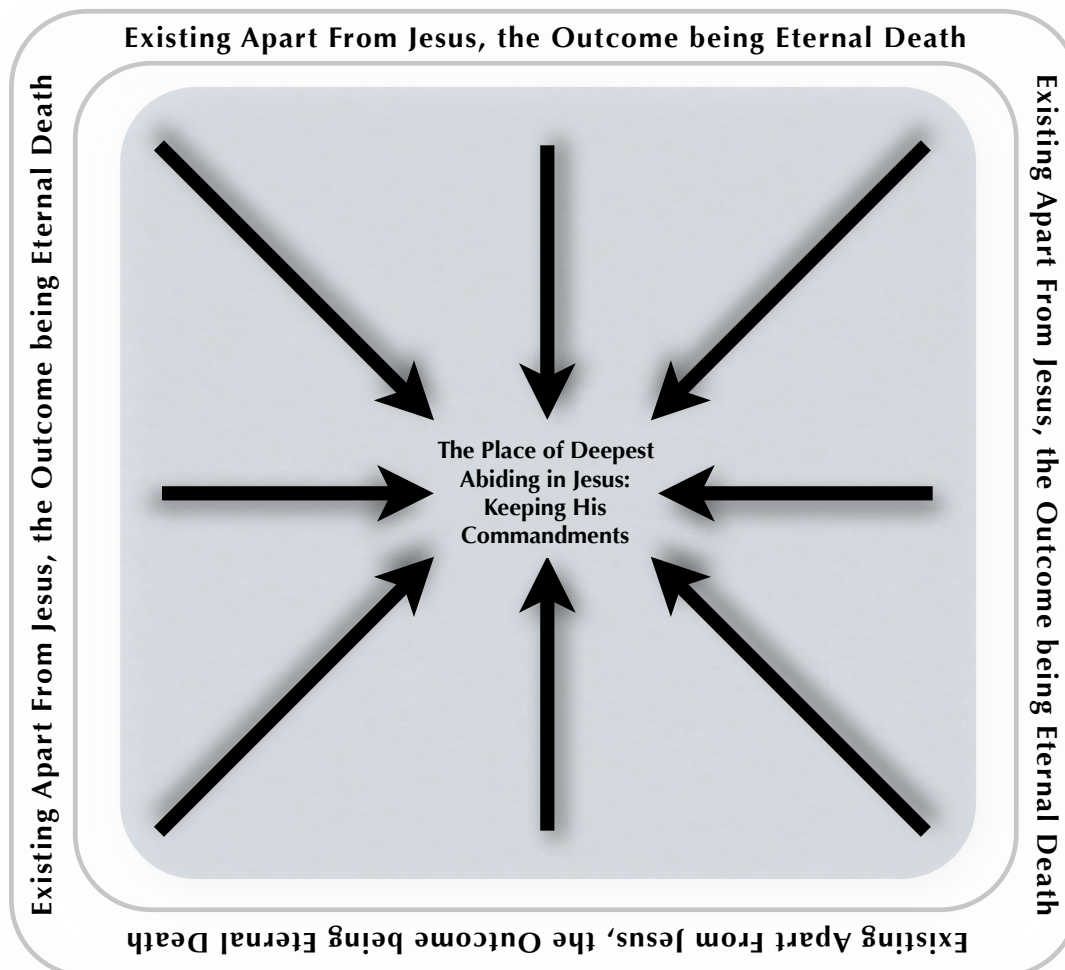
***If I ignore Jesus in this life, am I not simply saying to Him, 'Go away, leave me alone. I am better off without you.' Then what was it that I asked Him to save me from?***

***Since Jesus sees that I want to be left alone now, will He also leave me alone for eternity?***

# Living by Faith; Believing that all of God is Good

What's your law? Do you believe that if you step into the building of a church once per week and in general be a decent person that you are in good standing with God? God tells us that the things about us that we think are good are actually as undesirable as a used tampon (Isaiah 64:6).

***Let us cease our attempts to live under the law. For those who live under the law will die under the law.***



“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”  
Romans 3:19-20

**The gospel (good news) is the announcement of God's salvation plan in Jesus Christ to scoop us out from the control of sin and death and transfer us to the kingdom where He has placed His own Son as king.**

*When God looks at my heart, will he see a heart that desires to be with Him (obey His commandments) today or will He see a heart that desires to be left alone?*

“For **this** is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And **his commandments are not burdensome**. **For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:3-5

*Repent of not trusting in the commandments of Jesus! Repent of believing that our ways are better than God's ways. Repent of failing to see that our sin is so severe that it required the life of the Son of God to deliver us from its bondage and wages! Repent of wanting escape from hell while also wanting escape from His commandments! Repent of not trusting that it is to our own benefit that we keep His commandments! And may God grant us the grace of hearing and doing the words of Jesus! May God cause us to trust that His voice is the only voice that we can trust and depend on for life!*

***Repent, and believe the good news!***

**“Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!”** Lamentations 3:40

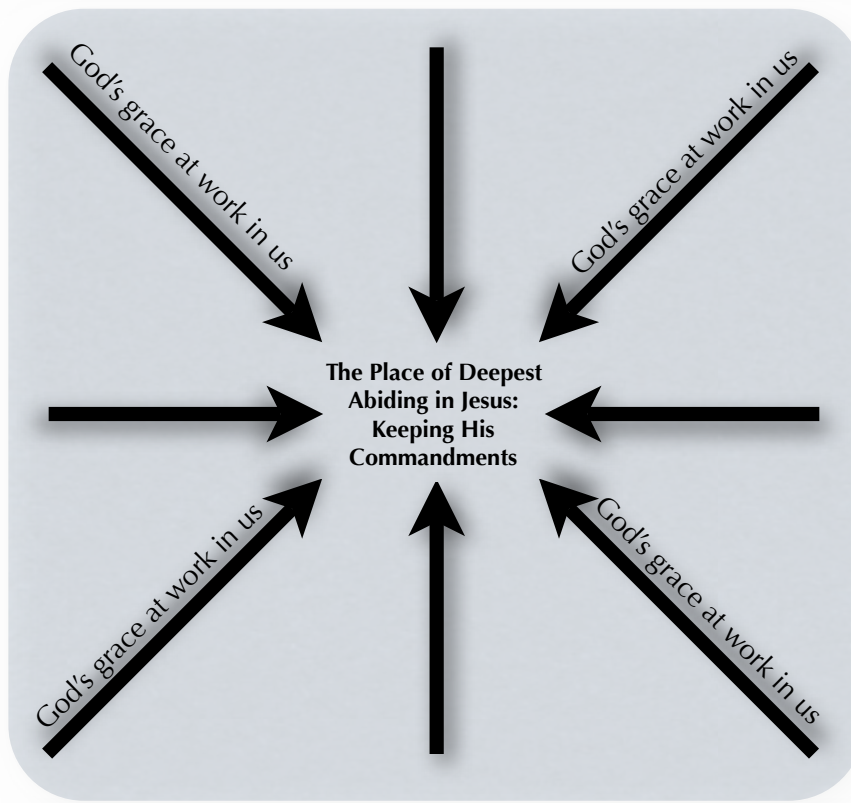
**“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”** 2 Peter 3:18

# What sort of people does God's grace produce?

Does God's outpouring of grace and forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ lead sinners to keep on sinning and even increase sinning? **Impossible!!** (See Romans 6:1-23)

Existing Apart From Jesus, the Outcome being Eternal Death

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Yellow and blue make green. Similarly, God's grace given to sinners through Jesus Christ makes those same sinners to be conformed to the image of Jesus and desire what God desires. Contrary to popular opinion, the grace of God does not cause sinners to continue in their sin. This would be as nonsensical as saying that blue and yellow make orange.

"Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power." Ephesians 3:7

"For the grace of God has appeared, **bringing salvation** for all people, **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us **to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**" Titus 2:11-14

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though **it was not I, but the grace of God** that is with me." 1 Corinthians 15:10

**"Whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected."** 1 John 2:5

"To those who are elect exiles... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, **for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:** May grace and peace be multiplied to you." 1 Peter 1:1-2

"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, **leading you to fall away from the living God.** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.** As it is said, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.'" Hebrews 3:12-15