

Brandon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Article 12 - Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

Statement of Faith Topics

1. Of the Scriptures	10. Of Sanctification
2. Of the True God	11. Of the Perseverance of Saints
3. Of the Fall of Man	12. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel
4. Of the Way of Salvation	13. Of a Gospel Church
5. Of Justification	14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper
6. Of the Freeness of Salvation	15. Of the Christian Sabbath
7. Of Grace in Regeneration	16. Of Civil Government
8. Of Repentance and Faith	17. Of the Righteous and the Wicked
9. Of God's Purpose of Grace	18. Of the World to Come

HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL

- We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government;
- that it is holy just and good;
- and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin;
- to deliver them from which and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law is one great end of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government;

- Romans 3:20 => because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.
- Romans 3:31 => Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.
- Romans 4:15 => for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.
- Matthew 5:17 => "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.
- Luke 16:17 => "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.

that it is holy just and good;

- Romans 7:7 => What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."
- Romans 7:12 => So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
- Romans 7:14 => For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
- Romans 7:22 => For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,
- Galatians 3:21 => Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.
- Psalms 119 =>

and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin;

- Romans 8:7-8 => because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- Joshua 24:19 => Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins.
- Jeremiah 13:23 => "Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.
- John 6:44 => "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
- John 5:44 => "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

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- Romans 8:2-4 => For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- Romans 10:4 => For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- 1 Timothy 1:15 => It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
- Hebrews 8:10 => "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.
- Hebrews 12:14 => Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
- Jude 1:20-21 => But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Thomas Aquinas taking heavenly glory quite frankly in the sense of fame or good report. But not fame conferred by our fellow creatures—fame with God, approval or (I might say) “appreciation’ by God. And then, when I had thought it over, I saw that this view was scriptural; nothing can eliminate from the parable the divine accolade, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” With that, a good deal of what I had been thinking all my life fell down like a house of cards. I suddenly remembered that no one can enter heaven except as a child; and nothing is so obvious in a child—not in a conceited child, but in a good child—as its great and undisguised - 6 - pleasure in being praised. Not only in a child, either, but even in a dog or a horse. Apparently what I had mistaken for humility had, all these years, prevented me from understanding what is in fact the humblest, the most childlike, the most creaturely of pleasures—nay, the specific pleasure of the inferior: the pleasure a beast before men, a child before its father, a pupil before his teacher, a creature before its Creator. I am not forgetting how horribly this most innocent desire is parodied in our human ambitions, or how very quickly, in my own experience, the lawful pleasure of praise from those whom it was my duty to please turns into the deadly poison of self-admiration. But I thought I could detect a moment—a very, very short moment—before this happened, during which the satisfaction of having pleased those whom I rightly loved and rightly feared was pure. And that is enough to raise our thoughts to what may happen when the redeemed soul, beyond all hope and nearly beyond belief, learns at last that she has pleased Him whom she was created to please. There will be no room for vanity then. She will be free from the miserable illusion that it is her doing. With no taint of what we should now call self-approval she will most innocently rejoice in the thing that God has made her to be, and the moment which heals her old inferiority complex for ever will also drown her pride deeper than Prospero’s book. Perfect humility dispenses with modesty. If God is satisfied with the work, the work may be satisfied with itself; “it is not for her to bandy compliments with her Sovereign.”

- The Weight of Glory by C.S. Lewis

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