



Law Responses vs. Grace Responses

SITUATION	LAW RESPONSE (Performance)	GRACE RESPONSE (Identity)
The temptation to yield to an immoral sexual opportunity	God says I should not do this. Even though I want to do it, I must say no to my desires and grit my teeth and obey God. Holiness demands that I resist this opportunity or God will punish me.	Even though I feel I want to sin, I know I have been crucified with Christ, and have died to sin. These thoughts and feelings are not coming from me but from the power of indwelling sin. I do not want to yield to this temptation. I am free to say no to these desires because I am in Christ and He is my victory. God will meet my needs as I trust him.
A failure or mistake	Why did I do that? What's wrong with me? I'm so worthless! I always mess things up! I am such a failure! I need to do better! I do not measure up to what God expects of me, and I know He is not pleased with me! I ought to do a better job so God will be glorified! My failure is a poor witness for Christ! God will love me more if I do more!	That hurts! I wish I would not have done that, but I'm free to fail. This is my life. Since everything I am and everything I have belongs to Christ, I've given up the right to be perfect and am willing to make mistakes. My self-esteem is not based on my performance, but on Christ who is my life. It is good to be humbled. A proper response to failure can be a better witness for Christ than perfect performance. This is an opportunity to learn and grow and exhibit to others the peace and joy that is mine in Christ. Even though I failed, I am still a 10. I am still as acceptable to God as I will ever be. I am going to see myself as God sees me and forgive myself. I am not a failure. I am a saint who temporarily failed.
A family member or someone repeatedly hurts and irritates me	This person bugs me! I don't know why God doesn't change this person! I've got to hold my temper and try to forget about it! God requires me to forgive 70 X 7, so I guess I have no choice but to ignore what is happening to me! I should act like a loving person to be a good Christian.	I am angry over what this person has done to me. But I choose to welcome this situation as an opportunity to let Christ express His life through me. Since I am a new person in Christ, I am a forgiving person...even when I do not feel like it. Not forgiving would be inconsistent with my real nature. I am going to ask God to cause me to see this person with His eyes and to discover the hurt inside this person that is causing the negative behavior. I am going to look for an opportunity to bless this person and will ask the Lord if and when I might need to confront this person in love about this negative behavior.