

# GOD AND HIS WORD NEVER CHANGE!!!

## - PART 1

mean? It comes from two Greek words – “*anti*” meaning “against or instead of (opposed to)” and “*nomos*” which means “a law, rule, standard; a rule of life or moral conduct.” Therefore, “antinomianism” means to be “against law.”

Actually, this word, or a form of it (Gr-“*anomos*”), is found within the New Testament at least 25 times. In the Greek language if we take the word “*nomos*,” and add the negative article “*a*” (*anti*) as prefixed or added to the word “*nomo*,” it translates to our English word “antinomian” – against or opposed to law. When used in the New Testament this Greek word “*anomos*” is translated to our English words - lawlessness; being in a condition without law; having contempt for law; iniquity. This word (*anomos*) is used by Jesus in the Gospel accounts, by the apostle Paul and other writers of the New Testament as previously mention, at least 25 times.

Webster’s Dictionary defines “antinomianism” as: “one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation; one that rejects a socially established morality.” At first glance, this sounds like sound doctrine. No one can argue with it because it is by grace and not only God’s grace but it is because of His love and mercy, as well, that we are saved. It is the very subtle addition of the terms “the moral law is of no use or obligation” and “socially established morality” that becomes a problem in this way of thinking. It may seem like “sound doctrine,” however, there is more to it and it entails many, many caveats as we will see.

Martin Luther actually coined the term, “antinomian” at the time of the Reformation and began using it in his teachings and writings against this philosophy that had become entrenched within the Body of Christ. However, antinomianism began as a Greek philosophy in Biblical times which was known as “Gnosticism.” This “philosophy” was first warned of by the Apostle Peter in 2Peter 2:1-2 as he realized that this philosophy would be trying to enter the Body of Christ. His letter was written around 68AD. It was then expounded upon in Jude’s letter to the believers which was written shortly after 2Peter in which Jude warns and declares that it has now indeed already entered into the Body of Christ. A few years later the Apostle John writes in His letters that this heretical philosophy has become rampant within the Body of Christ. John’s main purpose for writing his Gospel and his letters was in direct refute to this philosophy that was infiltrating and infecting not only the Body of Christ but also it was a direct attack against the Word of God and even Jesus, Himself, who is the Word. That is why John’s Gospel has different accounts and gives other information than Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospel accounts.

Gnosticism in simple terms is a philosophy that teaches that everything of the “spirit realm” is inherently good and everything of the “physical, natural realm (the flesh)” is inherently evil. The New Testament writers express the dangers of this type of thinking being brought into the Body of Christ. The first danger was that if everything of the flesh was inherently evil than Jesus, if He was the Son of God could not have physically come in the flesh otherwise He would be evil. Therefore, they say that Jesus did not really come in the flesh but rather He was a “spiritual apparition” who walked among us. The obvious flaw in this thinking was that if Jesus did not truly come in the flesh than He truly would not have been able to take our sins upon Him on that cross. He would not have been the perfect sacrifice because He would not have been able to take our place as a man and take the punishment for our sins upon Him. The resurrection would also be a fabrication because only one in the flesh who died would be able to then be resurrected. A “spirit” cannot be resurrected.

This philosophy of “Gnosticism” also taught that it only was a person’s spirit that mattered and that the person’s spirit is always inherently good. Therefore, it really, didn’t matter what the person’s flesh did. Bringing this same thinking into the Body of Christ, they would teach that if a person was “born of the spirit” through Jesus, than it didn’t matter what that person did in the flesh. He could sin and do whatever he wanted because anything of the flesh didn’t matter. It was only the person’s spirit that mattered. Hey!! Doesn’t that sound great? Doesn’t that sound like that if we are “born again” we do not need to be concerned any more with anything we do in the flesh? Doesn’t that give us license to do what is right in our own eyes or what “feels” right to us? It doesn’t matter because it is only our spirit that matters. Hmmmm....

Unfortunately, this opens the way to the thinking that anything written in the Jewish scriptures (Old Testament – moral law) or anything Jesus taught before His resurrection (moral law) is no longer relevant or needful because we are no longer “under” its law? To this the apostle Paul expressly declares, “God forbid.” Romans 6:15 tells us, *“What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid.**”*

Again Paul writes in Romans 7:7, *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? **God forbid.** Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”* And again in a different letter to the Galatians Paul writes in Galatians 3:21, *“Is the law then against the promises of God? **God forbid:** for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”* The Law never will bring us to faith. However, our faith will now lead us to the moral Law (Ten Commandments, etc.) which is the child of God’s manual to the lifestyle that God had intended His people to live from the beginning. It is only because of Jesus and the Holy Spirit within that we can now live that lifestyle.

Getting back to “antinomianism” we know that this word was used both in a secular way as well as in religious, theological views. In the secular way it refers to someone who believes that there is no need to adhere to or follow any governmental or civil laws of the land because they are a free moral agent to themselves who are, therefore, not “under” those laws nor do they need to yield to those laws.

Concerning its usage within the Body of Christ it refers to those who teach and adhere to the thinking that there is no need to refer to the writings of Moses, the Prophets or for that matter the teachings of Jesus prior to His resurrection because Jesus taught “under the Law.” There is no need to consider anything that has to do with any “law” whether the Law of Moses or the Law of Christ. My question is this, if we are not to be in submission to **any** “law” than why do any of us as believers need to follow any of our civil laws? If you follow this train of thought then you must follow it through in every aspect of any type of law.

Hey! If we are free from God’s laws, than why can’t we be free from any and every “man made” civil law? I’ll tell you why, because if you do “break the civil laws of the land” you will be arrested and you will need to pay the required consequences of your actions. Oh, you can tell the judge that your “spirit is free” so you didn’t need to follow the laws of the land but see how far and where that gets you. The judge oversees the laws of the land so that there will be order and not lawlessness and chaos. Hmmmm...

Why therefore, do we not apply the same thinking to the laws, commands and precepts of God? Why do we think it is now okay to break and not follow His commands or follow the precepts that He has given to us in His Word? Why do we think it is okay to not desire to please God with the moral excellence of character that He delighted in as seen in Jesus’ life when the Father very clearly declared, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye Him.**”* (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35) Jesus address this as well in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:19 as He teaches His disciples, *“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

So why do some think this way? I believe one of the reasons why is because somewhere along the line someone came up with the “doctrinal” teaching that God has changed. Somewhere the notion that before Jesus came, God was a vindictive, wrathful God who allowed murder and the killing of innocent men, women and children. God was a strict God who brought forth laws and commandments that were meant to keep those who believed in Him in bondage and those who didn’t believe in Him would be summarily executed. God was a mean God who could never be satisfied in any way by those whom He chose to call His people. Never mind those wicked Gentiles. Those that teach such things compare Him to the motto that Theodore Roosevelt (the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States) used - “Speak softly and carry a big stick.” That is what some teach and preach concerning the “God of the Old Testament.”

Oh, but then Jesus came and all of a sudden the “God of the Old Testament” got “saved” and changed into and became a loving Heavenly Father whom we all know and love today. Hmm... Doesn’t that sound a little off...? So what did happen? The answer is... nothing!!! The answer is that God has never changed!!! The writers of the Jewish scriptures and the New Testament scriptures both confirm and affirm this FACT!!!

The Jewish Scriptures declare that God NEVER changes:

Malachi 3:6 - *“I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”*

God, Himself is speaking this as we read this scripture. God is speaking in the first person when He says, “I the Lord...” He declares very simply, clearly and distinctly that He **does not change**, period!!!

Lamentations 3:21-23 – *“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because **his compassions fail not**. They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.**”*

Jeremiah declares as he is being inspired by the Spirit that God’s compassions never fail and that our God is a faithful God to His people. God was, is and always will be a gracious and compassionate God.

Psalms 102:25-27 - *“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but **you are the same**, and your years have no end.”*

Everything else around us will change. Creation will change, even by God’s design and plans. But God is forever the same and He will never stop being who He is. He is always the same, He never changes.

Numbers 23:19 – *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”*

This scripture, within its context concerning God speaking through Balaam to Balak, is concerning how God still looked at His people, though at that time they were not doing the right things. Even though Balaam was not the best of representatives, God still chose to speak through him this powerful truth to Balak and to us today. God is not a liar and He never needs to repent – change and turn from who He is and His ways. He always was and always will be gracious and loving to His people and to all who turn towards Him. This also shows that it isn’t the messenger (such as Balaam) that we should look at but rather what is the message that is being brought forth. God never changes and will accomplish everything He said He would do. God never needs to “repent” of any of His actions and neither does He need to ever change because He is righteous and all His actions are righteous and just. (Romans 3:6 – see below) He always was, is and will be the same loving Father who sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have life everlasting. (John 3:16)

The New Testament echoes the fact that God never changed from who He was, is and always will be:

James 1:17 – *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with **whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning.**”*

With God there is not even a shadow or trace of changing. He is the Light. When that Light shines upon other things they may produce a shadow depending on where they are standing in the “light of

His truth.” But with God He is the source of Light so there could never be any “shadow” of change. If He did ever change than He would be a liar and, personally, I could never believe in Him as the true and faithful God. Jesus as the “Light” who came to this earth beamed His Light directly on the Jewish scriptures so that we can now see them in their fullness with no shadow of man’s thinking and theology. We are now able to see the Jewish scriptures in and through and under the light of Jesus and the Spirit and the Father’s grace and mercy, having no “shadow.” Yes, the Jewish scriptures are a shadow of things that were to come but they are also truth and precepts of moral excellence that are relevant to the believer today.

Hebrews 1:10-12 – *“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; **but thou remainest**; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but **thou art the same**, and thy years shall not fail.”*

As previously spoken of in the Jewish scriptures and again declared in the New Testament, everything else around us will change and even perish but God is the same. His ways, precepts and laws always remain constant and are the same from everlasting to everlasting.

Hebrews 13:8 - *Jesus Christ the **same yesterday and today, and forever.***

By the way, Jesus is God so therefore if the writer tells us that Jesus was, is and always will be the same, than we know this is referring to God the Father and Holy Spirit, as well. By the way, Jesus is the Word, therefore the writer is also telling us that God’s inspired Word, from the beginning in Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:24, is the same and is relevant and needful to every believer even to this day and forever.

Hebrews 6:18 – *“That by two immutable things, in which it was **impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us...”*

The word “immutable” means - unchanging or unable to change over any span of time. It is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, every part of His inspired word found from Genesis to Revelation is pure unadulterated truth. God is the same God that we read of and see in the “Old Testament” as He is in the New Testament - every attribute; every characteristic; everything. We may not understand it and we may not like it but the fact remains. God is and always will be who He.

Many times the writings of the apostle Paul are cited as a resource and affirmation for the idea of doing away with the Jewish scriptures and adopting the “antinomianism” way of thinking. We previously discussed Romans 6:15 Romans 7:7 and Galatians 3:21, but the following are more “God forbids”\*\* given by Paul concerning his refute of the “antinomian” way of thinking.

(\*There are a few more “God forbids” that will be discussed in Part 2)

Romans 3:1-6 – *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? **God forbid**: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (Psalm 51:4)But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) **God forbid**: for then how shall God judge the world?”*

Paul quotes from Psalm 51:4 saying that God is justified in all that he ever did and will do. He is telling us that anything contrary to this is a man made lie. God is and His Word are the only things that are forever true and reliable. Paul also is very clear that there will be a time of God’s righteous judgment that will come. By the way this was written after the resurrection of Jesus by Paul for anyone who thinks that the judgment has already happened because of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Paul is warning that we should not refer to God’s righteous judgment as being “unrighteous.” When we read

the parenthesized, “*I speak as a man,*” Paul is declaring that it is not the Spirit that says this but is only the foolishness of man’s thinking that would think or say such a thing.

Romans 3:28-31 – “*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. **Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.***”

Paul declares and we are all in full agreement, that we are never justified by the deeds of the Law. It is only by faith in Jesus that we are justified in the sight of God. However, being justified by faith does not mean that the Law is no longer relevant and valuable to us in our new life in Christ. In other words the law doesn’t bring me to faith but my faith now points me to the Law which teaches thee moral and behavioral excellence that the believer and child of God should be exemplifying within their lifestyle. We can now exemplify this lifestyle in and through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us through Jesus.

Romans 6:1,2 – “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”*

Romans 7:13 – “*Was then that which is good made death unto me? **God forbid.** But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”* The Jewish scriptures reveal what sin is. It reveals to us what we need to stay away from for sin brings death. Therefore they are needful and good as it teaches us what sin is.

Galatians 2:17 – “*But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? **God forbid.***” This is clearly stating that Jesus was never the minister of sin. Therefore, every word He spoke was life. It was never “old testament” and His words were never meant to be disregarded after His resurrection.

We will continue our discussion in Part 2.