



LANDER, WYOMING
church of Christ

Grace vs. Karma by Triston Jacobsohn

Every religion believes in some form of karma. Karma means whatever you do – whether good or bad – will return to you at a later date. Every religion believes this in some form or other. Every religion – except Christianity.

In the Old Testament the Jews learned, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” Those who believe in reincarnation believe that the way you behave in this life will affect your next life. Even science teaches that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Jesus offers something very different from karma. It is called grace.

Karma keeps a record and is ready to punish every wrong – and that thought scares many people because they know they have done much wrong.

Grace on the other hand says that you have sinned and deserve punishment, but God loves and wants to forgive you. We don't deserve grace. We deserve karma, but that is why grace is a gift. It cannot be earned.

God is not fair. [2] He really is not. A God who is 100% fair would hold us accountable to every wrong we have done and would punish accordingly. After all, we have all broken law have we not? We do deserved punishment for the bad things we have done.

God would be right to expect us to pay for our sins. He would be a good karma-like God.

But, God does not believe in karma. Rather He is a parent – a perfect parent who loves his children. He knows the law is good and must be honoured. He also knows we deserved punishment. What should He do? He does the unimaginable: He punishes Himself in our place.

So Jesus died. It is so unfair. If you give him your broken life and He gives you a new clean life. He takes the karma of everyone who accepts Him. By His wounds we are healed.

You can now choose to live the rest of your life worried about karma and how you have to do so many good things to try offset the bad, or you can give Jesus your karma and accept His grace.

Oh yes, we Christians do good works – but it is not so we can be saved; rather, our good works are a celebration of thanks to God who has already saved us.

Thank You Jesus for Your amazing grace!

1. Ephesians 6:9 teaches that God is impartial. He is. Those who keep law will live (Galatians 3:12.) The problem is no one can keep law (Galatians 3:10.) God is "unfair" in that all who trust in Jesus are forgiven; Jesus was cursed for us (Galatians 3:13,14.)