

# REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JANUARY 2009

## THE GRACE OF THE LAW

BY TIM KELLER

At Redeemer we talk a lot about how we are saved by grace, not by our good works or obedience to the law. Indeed, Paul says we are not ‘under law’ but ‘under grace’ (Romans 6:15.) But what does that mean as far as having an obligation to submit to God’s will as written in his Word? Do we still have to obey the law? Absolutely.

To be ‘under the law’ refers not to law *obeying* but law *relying* (Galatians 3:10-11). When we think we can win God’s approval through our moral performance and obedience becomes a crushing burden, then we are ‘under law.’ But when we learn that Christ has fulfilled the law for us and that now we who believe in him are secure in God’s love, then we naturally want to delight, resemble,

and know the One who has done this. How can we do this? By turning to the law! Paul puts it this way. Though he is not under the law, ‘*I am not free from God’s law, but I am under Christ’s law*’ (1 Corinthians 9:21.) Though he is not ‘under’ the law (as a way to earn salvation) he now is freed to see the beauties of God’s law as fulfilled in Christ, and submits to it as way of loving his Savior. How does this work?

First, we embrace the law of God in order to learn more about who our God really is. Leviticus 19 is a magnificent chapter which both expands on all the Ten Commandments, and also summarizes them into ‘*love your neighbor as yourself.*’ It shows how God’s law was not a matter only of ritual purity, but was to transform every corner of one’s practical life.

In Leviticus 19:2, however, God introduces the whole law by saying, ‘*be holy, for I am holy.*’ In other words, if you want to know who I am, what I love and hate, if you want to know my heart and become like me, obey my law.

Second, we embrace the law of God in order to discover our true selves. Deuteronomy says, “*What does the Lord require of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you this day for your good?*” Here we see that the law of God is a gift of grace that is the foundation of human flourishing. It is not “busywork” assigned just to please  
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## HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE DIACONATE

The Diaconate would like to thank all who gave to the Mercy Fund on December 14, 2008. With this offering our deacons and deaconesses are able to meet the financial needs of those in our congregation who are experiencing a variety of

personal and life difficulties. We are grateful for your generosity, especially in light of these financially challenging times, and we consider you to be partners with us as we care for those God brings our way. If you were unable to give at the time of the offering,

we accept donations throughout the year. Please earmark your gift for the Diaconate or use a special envelope provided at the information table at all service sites. You can also make an online donation at [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com). Thank you again.



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# THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOTHAM

BY LORI MCNALLY

Relief! Relief—the first wave of emotion I felt upon hearing the announcement of The Gotham Fellowship at one of the west side evening services. Like many young, career-minded adults in the city I initially came to New York to pursue my dreams and aspirations. My occupational goals happened to be within the theatre. But as my time spent in this city barreled along, I experienced one of those “aha!” moments where you realize the world isn’t all about you anymore.

I struggled with what to do with my new found self-awareness and how and where I could get

involved. Why not volunteer or join some sort of charity? That certainly is one way to give back to the community. But my desire to serve went further than volunteering once a month or once a week. I was craving a deeper knowledge of the Bible as well as sound Christian doctrine. I found myself investigating classics by G.K. Chesterton, Augustine and C.S. Lewis. And I also craved accountability and support from like-minded people who also wanted the answers to the hard questions.

How does Gotham equip its Fellows? First, the fellowship provides a firm foundation in a gospel worldview—a means of looking at the world and culture through a Christ-centered lens. Gotham shows me how I can better engage culture and be a steward of the gospel in a way that is both sensitive and challenging to the world in which I am a part (i.e. career, neighborhood, peer group, family).

Secondly, Gotham has been a great source of discipline for my spiritual and personal development. There are of course the weekly reading assignments with selections from St. Augustine, N.T. Wright, Martin Luther and Athanasius. Since I find myself attempting to complete the majority of my reading on the subway, the array of strange stares and puzzled looks are a continual source of amusement for me as

fellow passengers catch a glimpse of the cover of whichever book I am reading for the week. Last week was John Owen’s *Mortification of Sin*.

In addition to the weekly readings, daily devotional work provides me with the discipline I know I need. And weekly meetings allow for scholarly debate and discussion of the ideas we have encountered in our readings. Further, the staff of Gotham meticulously select Mentors from the church to act as personal advisors and counselors. Each Mentor is paired with a Fellow according to gender and profession, and it is the responsibility of each Fellow to cultivate this relationship in the direction in which he or she wishes it to go.

Thirdly, Gotham develops community within the group through monthly workshop meetings and three quarterly retreats. These have been the highlight of my Gotham experience thus far as a means to really rejuvenate me spiritually and intellectually. The retreats and workshops help to flesh out prominent themes and topics, enabling fellows to act as leaders both within their chosen profession and the church.

Relief! Yes, I felt relief to learn I was not the only young New Yorker hankering to read over 600 pages of church history. We’ve got work to do! I can’t think of anything more invigorating.

## GOTHAM FELLOWSHIP 2009 LAUNCH

*Applications for the Gotham  
Fellowships 2009-2010 cohort will  
be released Sunday, January 11.*

*Details will be announced that  
Sunday at all services. An  
information session will be held  
on Sunday, February 8 following  
the Eastside AM worship service  
at Hunter College. RSVP and  
for more information at  
[www.gothamfellowship.org](http://www.gothamfellowship.org)*

## REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller  
Heather Klein

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.  
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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington) services at 10:30AM • 6:00PM	ETHICAL CULTURE West 64TH and CPW service at 9:15AM	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of West 79TH and Broadway service at 5:00PM & 7:15PM
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# CENTER FOR FAITH AND WORK DECEMBER EVENTS

DATE & TIME	EVENT & LOCATION
Sat., Jan. 3, at 11:00AM	Filmmaker's Group Monthly Brunch, Redeemer Offices
Mon., Jan. 5, at 7:00PM	Leaders @7, First Baptist Church
Tues., Jan. 7, at 7:00PM	EI BPC Workshop, Redeemer Offices
Fri., Jan. 9, at 7:00PM	InterArts Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Sun., Jan. 11, at	Gotham Application Release, <a href="http://www.gothamfellowship.org">www.gothamfellowship.org</a>
Sun., Jan. 11, at 6:30PM	Healthcare Dinner after West Side 5:00PM service
Tues., Jan. 13, at 7:00PM	Dancers Group, New Dance Group Studio 305 West 38th St.
Thurs., Jan. 15, at 8:00AM	Legal Fellowship Breakfast, Redeemer Offices
Sun., Jan. 18, at 12:00PM	Healthcare Lunch after East Side AM service
Mon., Jan. 19, at 7:00PM	Entrepreneurs Fellowship Group, Redeemer Offices
Tues., Jan. 20, at 7:00PM	The A.D. Agency, Cooley Studio, 150 W. 25th St.
Wed., Jan. 21, at 7:00PM	Writers Group, SALT Gallery
Thurs., Jan. 22, at 7:00PM	Ph.D. Students, Redeemer Offices
Fri., Jan. 23, at 7:30PM	Higher Education, email <a href="mailto:dmugglin@poly.edu">dmugglin@poly.edu</a> for details
Sun., Jan. 25, at 12:30PM	CFW Open House, Hunter College
Tues., Jan. 27, at 7:00PM	Actors Group, Ripley Grier Studios 520 8th Ave. Studio 16T
Wed., Jan. 28, at 7:00PM	Financial Services Ministry Fellowship, Redeemer Offices
Wed., Jan. 28, at 7:00PM	The Best in New Fiction Book Group, Redeemer Office

*If no location is cited, please check the website at [www.faithandwork.org](http://www.faithandwork.org)*

## HELP REDEEMER BE GREENER

As Redeemer seeks to find new ways to be greener and to be good stewards of its budget in the process, we are asking you to help us in a very practical and simple way. When you receive your letter or email inviting you to "Go Green" please take 5 minutes to update your contact information and preferred method of communication.

You can do this two ways: First, by making your status in our database "email ONLY" for communication you previously received via posted mail. Although we will continue to do a postal mailing of all communications to those who request it, those who are comfortable receiving information from Redeemer electronically will help us save thousands of sheets of paper and thousands of dollars in postage and handling costs annually.

Second, by updating our database with your correct information you will prevent us from mailing stuff to places you no longer live. That alone would be a huge savings!

So look for the letter in the coming weeks and help Redeemer go greener by responding in a timely manner. Thank you for helping us do more with the gifts God has entrusted to us.

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

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The Entrepreneurship Initiative (or EI) launched its third business plan competition on October 5 at all five services at Redeemer and several Redeemer affiliate churches. This competition, as part of Redeemer's vision to bring about cultural renewal, helps to identify and encourage people to apply their understanding of the gospel to their marketplace ideas and ventures for the common good. Each year the process is meant to spur all participants toward excellence in seeing how the gospel can be the foundation of a venture.

This year we held information sessions in an effort to share criteria for entering the competition and to introduce some of the competition's judges. The enthusiastic responses from the people at these sessions have been inspiring. One performance artist told us, 'It is so great to meet other people who have a passion for their businesses.'

This passion brought a number of people to the competition's first

workshop on the morning of October 18. Pastor Jeff White of the New Song Community Church and Katherine Leary of Redeemer's Center led the "Developing a Gospel-Centered Venture" workshop for Faith and Work. The workshop helped participants understand Micah 4:1-8 on how the vision of the future helps shape our role and purpose and how it might manifest itself in their marketplace ideas and ventures.

At the time of this article, we had our second workshop, "The Four M's: Mission, Market, Model and Management," led by Steering Committee members Lora Gaston and Karen Hung. Our third and final workshop is "Start-up Finance Fundamentals," led by another committee member, Sang Ahn, on January 7, 2009. These workshops were designed primarily for the participants in the competition but also for the broader Redeemer community. In these ways we seek to develop wisdom and understanding in how the gospel impacts our ideas

and ventures in the marketplace to bring about human flourishing.

This year we received 48 executive summaries from the Redeemer community. This is an increase of 12% adjusting for this year's geographic limitations. Of the 48 submissions, 33 were for-profit ventures and 15 were not-for-profit. Reflecting the diversity of the Redeemer community, 20 submissions were from artists (actors, film makers, illustrators, media, and entertainment). From this group of candidates we will select some to move forward in the process and to submit more detailed business plans. Review teams comprising people with relevant industry, professional or investing experience will read each plan and select a small pool of finalists in the not-for-profit and for-profit categories. These finalists will make a presentation to the Judging Panel on February 17 and March 4 and final winners will be selected shortly afterwards.

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## THE GRACE OF THE LAW

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the arbitrary whims of a capricious deity. The law of God simply shows us what human beings were built to do—to worship God alone, to love their neighbors as themselves, to tell the truth, keep their promises, forgive everything, act with justice. When we move against these laws we move against our own natures and happiness. Disobedience to God sets up strains in the fabric of reality that can only lead to break down.

Third, we understand the law

of God as fulfilled in Christ. This means two things. One we already mentioned. Christ completely fulfilled the requirements of the law in our place, so when he took the penalty our sins deserved, we could receive the blessing that his righteousness deserved (2 Corinthians 5:21.) However, we also recognize that many parts of the Old Testament law no longer relate directly to us as believers. Since Jesus is the ultimate priest, temple, and sacrifice, we observe none of the ceremonial, dietary,

and other laws connected to ritual purity. Also, Christians of all nations are now members of the people of God, and God's community no longer exists as a single nation-state under a theocratic-government. Therefore, the 'civil legislation' of the Old Testament is no longer appropriate. Adultery in the Old Testament was punishable by a death, but in the New Testament it is dealt with through exhortation and church discipline (1 Corinthians 6-7.)

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# REDEEMERITES SPOTTED AT ALL THE HOT ART VENUES

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This fall Redeemer's Arts Greenhouse Culture Club attended arts events at the New York Philharmonic, American Ballet Theatre, and Metropolitan Opera. Those who purchased tickets received information by email about the art form and the event and gathered before the event to learn more. Many attendees had dinner together beforehand or dessert afterward, made new friends and chatted about the event and other arts experiences they've had.

Each event was selected and "hosted" by a Redeemer artist working in that discipline. Classical conductor Miriam Burns (also the director of the East Side morning worship service) hosted the group at the New York Philharmonic, and was joined by the Rev. Mark Robinson—who is also a classical pianist. Ballet dancer Emily SoRelle Adams and modern dancer/choreographer Kimberly Morris hosted us at American

Ballet Theatre. For the Metropolitan Opera, hosted by mezzo-soprano Linnea Leonard Kickasola, those of the group still going strong after a 3+ hour opera were joined for dessert by Redeemerite Mark Delavan, who performed one of the lead roles in the production.

We've got lots of great plans for 2009, including a tour at the Museum of Modern Art of paintings that changed the way we think about art, and the Broadway production of *Waiting for Godot*, which comically captures the existential confusion that grew out of the tragedy of war in the early twentieth century. It's a great way to try something new, get to know other Redeemer folks, learn about the vital (and internationally influential) arts scene going on around us every day in NYC, and experience the best of the best, selected for our congregation by our own artists. To be first in line for tickets, join the Greenhouse/Culture Club's email

list at [www.faihandwork.org/greenhouse](http://www.faihandwork.org/greenhouse). Because tickets are limited, we rarely announce the Culture Club's events to the congregation.

But wait, there's more! This year Redeemer will celebrate its second annual Arts Month in February, when you'll get numerous opportunities to learn more about the arts and their spiritual contexts. Rev. Matthew Buccheri and Arts Ministry program director Luann Jennings will co-teach a Saturday School of Gospel Foundations class on "Finding God in the Arts," the Culture Club will have weekly arts outings, and we'll have ways for you to get in touch with your "inner artist!" For more information about specific events, and to sign up, visit [www.faihandwork.org/artsmoonth](http://www.faihandwork.org/artsmoonth) or look for the flyer in the January 25 Sunday bulletin. Contact [arts@redeemer.com](mailto:arts@redeemer.com) for more information.

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Fourth, we realize that the law's painful, convicting work is ultimately a gracious thing. When we fully comprehend the kind of life the law requires of us, it can be intimidating. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus expounds the Ten Commandments in this comprehensive way. He shows us the attitude we should have to the world, being salt and light, investing ourselves in the needs of our communities. He shows us that if we even disdain and ignore our neighbors, calling them 'fools', we are attacking their creator, in

whose image they are made. He calls us to never look on another with lust, living lives of purity and chastity. He insists we should speak with as much honesty in all our daily interactions as if we were testifying in court under oath. We are told to forgive and love our enemies, turning the other cheek rather than seeking revenge. We are to give to the poor without expecting any thanks or acclaim. We are to give our money away in astonishing proportions, and carry on a dynamic, secret, inner prayer life.

We are never to be judgmental or condemning of others, and we are to live a life free from worry. One minister said, after reading through Matthew 5-7 carefully, "God save us all from the Sermon on the Mount!" If you listen at all to the law of God, you will feel naked and exposed, ashamed and helpless, and you will seek out the mercy of God. That is why Paul says that though the law, when listened to, is devastating (Romans 7:9-11) it is nevertheless 'spiritual, righteous, and good'

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(Romans 7:12, 14) and its work is ultimately gracious (Romans 7:7.) It acts as a kind but strict schoolmaster who leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24.)

Fifth, we turn to the law of God in order to get a true definition of what it means to love others in our relationships and in society as a whole. There was once a school of ethics called 'situation ethics' that rejected the Biblical law as too rigid. Instead, we were told, we only need to always do the loving thing, what is best for the person. But this begs the question—'how do you know what is the best thing for a person?' Is sleeping together with someone before marriage the best thing or the worst thing for him or her? How do you know? The law is God's way of saying, *'If you want to love others, act this way. I created people. I know what the best thing for them is.'* That is why Paul could write:

*The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:9-10*

The law of God, then, gives Christians guidance not only in personal relationships, but helps us as we seek to make our society a more just and merciful one. What do people need? What does it mean to treat people with dignity? The law informs Christians' political and social involvement.

Finally, we turn to the law of God because sometimes we need to do things just because God says so. In the garden, God told Adam and Eve not to eat the tree, but he never told them *why*. Some of us simply hate to follow a direction unless we know all the reasons why the direction was given, how

it will benefit us, and so on. But God was saying to Adam and Eve, I think, *'Obey this direction, not because you understand, but because you recognize that I am your God and that you are not.'* They failed in this. But every day we have the opportunity to put this right. Do God's will, not because it is exciting (though it will eventually be an adventure) not because it will meet your needs (though it will eventually be a joy) not because you understand why this is the path of wisdom (though it will eventually become more clear.) Do it because he is your Lord and Savior and you are not. Do it because it is the law of the Lord. And if you do it—if you obey him even in the little things—you will know God, know yourself, find God's grace, love your neighbor, and simply honor him as God. Not a bad deal.