

Disciples Are Obedient

Study Guide

The Well Church Cincinnati

Obedience isn't just about following rules, it's about expressing love through action. Jesus calls us in Matthew 28:20 to teach disciples to obey everything He commanded, reminding us that true discipleship is measured by obedience, not religious ritual. Saul's story in 1 Samuel 15 shows that partial obedience is still disobedience—God desires our hearts more than empty sacrifices. As disciples, we're called to holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16), humility (Philippians 2:5-8), and honor (Philippians 2:9-18), following Christ's example of surrender and integrity. Obedience itself is our offering, our worship, as Paul writes in Romans 12:1–2: living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, transformed by His Word.

"Obedience is better than sacrifice." – 1 Samuel 15:22

I. What is Obedience?

Obedience is not just rule-following—it's love expressed in action. Discipleship is measured by obedience to Christ, not religious ritual. Saul's failure in 1 Samuel 15 reminds us that partial obedience equals disobedience.

Reflection Questions

- 1 Why does God value obedience over sacrifice?
- 2 How do you see the difference between religious activity and true obedience in your own life?

II. Obedient to What?

1. Holiness (1 Peter 1:13–16)

We are called to live as God's obedient children. Holiness means being set apart in thoughts, actions, and desires.

"Be holy, because I am holy." – 1 Peter 1:16

Reflection Questions

- 1 What 'old ways' try to pull you back from obedience?
- 2 How can you prepare your mind daily for holiness?

Application

- 1 Practice spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, scripture reading).
- 2 Set boundaries that guard your thoughts and behavior.

2. Humility (Philippians 2:5–8)

Jesus modeled humility through obedience—even to death on the cross. Obedience requires surrender of pride and self-will.

“He humbled himself in obedience to God.” – Philippians 2:8

Reflection Questions

- 1 In what areas of life do you resist humility?
- 2 How does Jesus’ example challenge your perspective on obedience?

Application

- 1 Choose servanthood in daily interactions.
- 2 Lay down your ‘rights’ to follow Christ’s will.

3. Honor (Philippians 2:9–18)

God honors those who obey, just as He exalted Jesus. Our obedience brings glory to God and becomes our offering (Romans 12:1–2). Obedience produces joy and light in a dark world.

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow.” – Philippians 2:10

Reflection Questions

- 1 How can your obedience bring honor to Christ in your workplace, family, or ministry?
- 2 What does it mean for obedience itself to be an offering?

Application

- 1 Live with integrity even when no one is watching.
- 2 Obey with joy, without complaining or arguing, to shine as a light.

III. Big Idea: Obedience is Worship

Saul missed this truth: God wants our hearts, not empty sacrifices. True worship is living daily in submission to God’s Word. Romans 12:1–2 calls us to be living sacrifices—holy, pleasing, and transformed.

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.” – Romans 12:1

Reflection Questions

- 1 How can obedience transform your worship experience?
- 2 In what ways is God asking you to offer your whole self to Him today?

Summary Points

- 1 Discipleship = obedience to Christ’s commands.

- 2 Obedience is motivated by love, sustained by humility, and results in holiness and honor.
- 3 Our obedience itself is the offering God desires.

Action Steps for the Week

- 1 Identify one area of disobedience in your life and commit it to prayer.
- 2 Practice humility daily—find one way to serve someone else this week.
- 3 Memorize Romans 12:1–2 and reflect on what it means to be a living sacrifice.
- 4 Journal: Each night, write one way you obeyed God that day.