

## **Why Is Obedience So Important?**

### **Series: Roadmap For Christian Living**

**Cultural Christianity has become a religion that you believe with no action behind it.**

**We wear crosses, we get emotional during Christmas and Easter over traditions, and yet, so many people live their lives in direct violation of what the Bible says.**

**When did obedience become unnecessary?**

### **What Does The Bible Say?**

13 That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. 14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad. (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 NLT)

23 Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross

daily, and follow me. 24 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Luke 9:23–24 NLT)

**A follower of Christ is no longer concerned about his life, but lives for Christ.**

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (Matthew 7:24–27 NLT)

**Lip service to God’s Word without obedience is disobedience.**

19 We love each other because he loved us first. (1 John 4:19 NLT)

**Understand that the Bible is all about how God has pursued us to be part of His family.**

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. 3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. 4 If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. (1 John 2:1–6 NLT)

**Obedience to God proves our love to Him.**

**Non-Christians obey to earn God's love and acceptance. We obey God because of what He did for us on the cross.**

**Reasons Why Obedience to God Is Important**

- **Obedience Is an Act of Worship (Romans 12:1)**
- **God Rewards Obedience (James 1:22–25, NLT)**
- **Obedience to God Demonstrates Faith(1 John 2:3–6, NLT)**
- **Disobedience Leads to Sin and Death (1 Corinthians 15:22, ESV)**
- **Through Obedience, We Experience the Blessings of Holy Living (2 Corinthians 7:1, NLT)**

**How Can You Obey?**

16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16 NLT)

**Become accountable.**

8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Colossians 3:8 & 12 NLT)

**Put off sinful patterns of behavior.**

1 Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. (Psalm 1:1–3 NLT)

**Practice the spiritual disciplines.**

**We don't learn obedience overnight; it's a lifelong process that we pursue by making it a daily goal.**

## **Additional Notes:**

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at [www.crosswaveschurch.com/host](http://www.crosswaveschurch.com/host). Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

## **Explore:**

Much sin and compromise is committed in secret (Ephesians 5:12). Examine your own sin. Is it routinely done when you are isolated and by yourself? If so, then take heed and be preventative by purposing to not be isolated or by yourself for long periods of time. The Bible says that it is not good for a man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). A fool isolates himself. Don't trust yourself. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Matthew

26:41, NASB). Whenever possible, be in the company of other believers.

McManis, C. (2006). *Christian Living Beyond Belief: Biblical Principles for the Life of Faith* (p. 212). The Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications.

### **Explore:**

Sometimes, when people become Christians later in life as adults, they find that they have developed patterns of sinful behavior that are hard to shake even after they have been saved.

Whether it's anger, lust, sexual temptation, lying, speaking profanity, complaining, sarcasm, discontentment, laziness, stubbornness, excessive anxiety, or whatever, life-long patterns of behavior pose a severe trial for many believers.

Do you have any deeply rooted patterns of sinful behavior that are a carry-over from many years of ungodly living? If so, the place to begin to uproot it is to first admit it and confess it as sin to God. The first step to overcoming the problem is to acknowledge that the problem exists. Proverbs says, “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy” (28:13).

McManis, C. (2006). *Christian Living Beyond Belief: Biblical Principles for the Life of Faith* (p. 213). The Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications.

**Explore:**

Paul said his greatest goal was to always try to obey God. He writes,



So we make it our goal to please him [by obeying], whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:9–10).

All Christians should have the same desire—to please God in all they do. But how do we know what God wants? How does God communicate to humans? How do we figure out what God's will is on any given issue? How does God command us today? How do we hear His voice in the twenty-first century? Is He talking to anyone audibly or in visions and dreams or through living prophets today as He has done in the past? These are all important and relevant questions.

Those in the Mormon Church say they hear from God through their living Prophet, who is also called their President and Apostle. He supposedly gives divine revelation from God and

speaks authoritatively for the Mormon Church. So Mormons are obligated to obey him. In addition, they have three books they call divine Scripture that they seek to obey: the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price and Doctrine and Covenants.

Hindus seek to obey the Vedas (holy writings) and a multitude of living spiritual leaders called gurus, who are actually believed to be incarnate deity. Muslims seek to obey various muftis, Imams, and fatwas all claiming to speak authoritatively on behalf of Allah, the God of Islam.

The Jehovah's Witnesses seek to obey the Governing Body of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. This Body is an autocratic form of rule by an elite group of people who dictate what God has and has not said.

People in the Roman Catholic Church look to the Pope, the Magisterium, Roman Catholic tradition and the institution of the Church as voices of authority whom they must obey.

Historic, biblical Christianity differs from all the above mentioned religions when it comes to the final source of authority. Biblical Christianity teaches that the sole authority on matters of religious faith and practice is the Bible. The Bible is the holy, inerrant, complete, sufficient, living Word of God.

When the Bible speaks, God speaks. The sixty-six books of the Bible contain everything God wants the Church and each individual Christian to know. To obey the Bible is to obey God (Matthew 15:4). To obey God is to obey the Bible.

Jesus taught that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were the very words of God, and were therefore authoritative, binding, and infallible (Matthew 4:4; 5:17–18; Luke 24:25–27, 44–47; John 10:35). He said the same would be true about the New Testament that was to be composed by His select Apostles (John 14:26; 16:13; Galatians 1:11–12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16). They wrote down the words of Jesus, who

Himself was God (2 Peter 1:20–21; 1 John 4:6; Revelation 1:1–2).

The Bible has authority over all church leaders, over the church, over tradition, over every individual Christian. The Bible is the authority of God Himself (John 17:17; Revelation 22:18–19).

When we seek to obey God, that means we seek to obey His Word, the Bible.

McManis, C. (2006). *Christian Living Beyond Belief: Biblical Principles for the Life of Faith* (pp. 207–208). The Woodlands, TX: Kress Christian Publications.

### **Explore:**

Christ meets you outside the throne room, takes you by the hand, and walks you into the presence of God. Upon entrance we find grace, not condemnation; mercy, not punishment. Where we

would never be granted an audience with the king, we are now welcomed into his presence.

If you are a parent you understand this. If a child you don't know appears on your doorstep and asks to spend the night, what would you do? Likely you would ask him his name, where he lives, find out why he is roaming the streets, and contact his parents. On the other hand, if a youngster enters your house escorted by your child, that child is welcome. The same is true with God. By becoming friends with the Son we gain access to the Father.

Jesus promised, "All who stand before others and say they believe in me, I will say before my Father in heaven that they belong to me" (Matthew 10:32). Because we are friends of his Son, we have entrance to the throne room. He ushers us into that "blessing of God's grace that we now enjoy" (Romans 5:2).

Lucado, M. (1999). God's Open Arms Studies on Grace (p. 42).  
Dallas, TX: Word Pub.

**Explore:**

Your temptation isn't late-breaking news in heaven. Your sin doesn't surprise God. He saw it coming. Is there any reason to think that the One who received you the first time won't receive you every time?

Besides the very fact that you are under attack must mean that you're on the right side. Did you notice who else had times of struggle? Paul did .... He is not describing a struggle of the past, but a struggle in the present. For all we know, Paul was engaged in spiritual combat even as he wrote this letter. You mean the apostle Paul battled sin while he was writing a book in the Bible? Can you think of a more strategic time for Satan to

attack? Is it possible that Satan feared the fruit of this epistle to the Romans?

Could it be that he fears the fruits of your life?

Lucado, M. (1999). God's Open Arms Studies on Grace (p. 92).

Dallas, TX: Word Pub.

### **Question 1 of 5**

How do you explain that God is in complete control of the world?

### **Question 2 of 5**

Is obedience an option for Christians? Why or why not?

**Question 3 of 5**

What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping Christians obey?

**Question 4 of 5**

What strategies can you employ to help overcome such sinful habits? Who will hold you accountable?

**Question 5 of 5**

Is faith or obedience more important to God? Why?