

LIVE IN OBEDIENCE

Eph. 3:7-13

SERMON SUMMARY:

Churches in America have shied away from talking about obedience. Perhaps they do not want to be perceived as guilt-tripping or shaming people. Perhaps they do not want to put pressure on people to try harder. Yet, very often, obedience is talked about as something *we do* and not something that *God does* in us. In our passage today, we will see what lessons Paul has learned about obedience and how we can apply them.

SERMON OUTLINE:

Lessons on Obedience

Obedience starts with God's resources.

Obedience is God's invitation for us to play our part in His story.

Obedience is sustained by beholding Christ.

Living in Obedience

Obedience comes from being united with Christ, not human effort.

Consider what step of obedience God is leading you into.

THINK ABOUT IT/TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why have churches seemed to have stopped talking about obedience?
- Have you ever felt pressure to “try harder” when the topic of obedience is brought up?
- Talk about a time when your obedience felt more like God producing it than you doing it.
- What does it mean to “behold Christ”? How do we do that?
- What is the inevitable consequence of trying to obey from only your own effort?
- What step of obedience is God leading you into?