

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

LESSON 12

OBEDIENCE

Supplemental Class Notes

Lesson Objectives

1. To understand why obedience is central to a growing relationship with Christ.
2. To help the us understand that obedience is not following a list of *Do's and Don'ts*, but rather it is knowing and serving Christ from the heart.

INTRODUCTION

What connections do you see between what John spoke about in his message and the earlier lessons we have studied in this series?

How do love and obedience form an unbreakable pair of responses?

1. UNDERSTANDING OBEDIENCE

A. Obedience from the heart

Obedience, flowing from a thankful heart, is an underlying theme of this lesson. Our love for Christ is the basis for our willingness to deny ourselves and follow Christ. Obeying God to earn favor or to pay God back for salvation is not true obedience and is spiritually dangerous.

B. An internal law

Related to obedience flowing from the heart is the truth that Christians have God's law written in their hearts (Hebrews 8:10). Christians are no longer under the Old Covenant, in which the law was primarily external, but we are under the New Covenant, in which the law is internal.

Since Christians are freed from the slavery of the law, and thus made slaves to God (Romans 6:22), we are freed to serve God with love and joy (1 John 4:19) and not under compulsion.

Love sums up the Christian's motivation for obedience (Matthew 22:37-40)!

2. THE CALL TO OBEDIENCE

A. The call to obey

What does it mean to love God with "*all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind*"? (Matthew 22:37-40)

B. The call to follow Christ

What it means to deny oneself and to take up your cross daily"

A Christian need to give his heart to God and seek after the things above (Colossians 2:20-3:2).

C. How can I become more obedient?

The call to obedience always exposes our shortcomings.

One of the principal ways obedience is encouraged is by taking your thoughts captive.

Think about Christlikeness and holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Dwell on things that are noble, pure, and good (Philippians 4:8).

This is what the Bible means when it commands us to set our minds on things above (Colossians 3:1-2).

The more we read and the more we pray, the more we learn about God. The more we learn about Him, the more we love Him, and the more we love Him, the more we obey Him.

D. It is a struggle, we will fail.

All of us will fall short in our obedience to God (James 3:2).

Paul knew this struggle all too well (Romans 7:15-19).

But like Paul, a Christian should pursue obedience by denying himself (Luke 9:23) and offering his life to God (Romans 12:1).

3. OBEDIENCE MARKS A TRUE BELIEVER.

Real faith, saving faith, is all of me (mind, emotions, and will) embracing all of Him (Savior, Advocate, Provider, Sustainer, Counselor, and Lord God). Those who have such faith will love Christ (Romans 8:28; 1Cor. 16:22; 1 John 4:19).

John MacArthur

Obedience must come from a joyful heart that flows from our love for Christ.

We obey because we want to, not because we have to.

4. EXAMPLES OF DISOBEDIENCE AND OBEDIENCE.

An underlying assumption behind much of our casual approach to obedience has to do with the lie that it's possible to disobey without experiencing consequences.

Much of our culture today represents a concerted approach to practicing lifestyles that deny the reality of consequences. People are genuinely shocked when their behavior produces the obvious sicknesses, poverty, and tragedies that follow such reckless actions. We end up believing we should not only be able to make any choice we desire, but we should also be able to determine any result that pleases us.

What are some external evidences or consequences of disobedient behavior (Romans 1:26-27)?

Does anyone ever get away with sin?

5. THE PROMISE AND BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE.

On the other hand, if one is obedient, then God promises blessing.

6. AREAS OF OBEDIENCE.

With the promises and blessing of obedience in mind, this section brings to light typical relationships that each of us face in our daily lives.

How can parents make it difficult for their children to obey (Colossians 3:21)?

How can husbands make it difficult for wives to obey (Colossians 3:19)?

7. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OBEDIENCE.

Every Christian should desire to obey God (Psalm 40:8).

We should want to submit ourselves to Christ's lordship, viewing ourselves as obedient slaves of Christ (Ephesians 6:6).

"But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'" - 1 Peter 1:15-16