

Obedience & Growth

Opening Announcements:

- Graduate Recognition
- Re-Opening Plan Update

Opening Prayer:

Q: When you think about "obedience" to God, what comes to mind?

Q: What should be our ultimate motive for obedience?

Q: Can you think of any earthly examples of where people are obedient for that reason/motive?

Transition...

In today's deeper look, we're going to start with growth and then get to the "means" through which we attain it and finally look at the motive behind it all! By doing it this way, hopefully we'll avoid some of the pitfalls of legalism, or pride or hypocrisy.

READ: Ephesians 4:13-16 "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Q: According to THIS passage, what are some of the "goals" outlined?

Q: What are some of the dangers we're trying to avoid?

Q: Verse 15 talks about "speaking the truth in love". "What is Truth"? (see: John 18:38 AND John 17:17 for the answer and some deeper things to ponder on!). AND, what's the means/motive for speaking the truth?

READ: 1 Peter 2:2-3 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Q: How does Peter characterize spiritual growth? How can this help us?

Q: What are some things "essential" to healthy growth?

Obedience

READ: Philippians 2:8 "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

READ: Philippians 2:14-15a " Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life..."

READ: 1 John 5:1-5 "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Q: According to the Philippians passage above, what did Jesus DO and in what attitude did He do it?

Q: Why is our attitude SO important in/to obedience? (see: Phil. 2:14-15).

Q: Why is it EASY to have a combative or negative attitude?

LOVE

READ: 1 John 5:2-3 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

Q: According to these verses, what's our MOTIVE for obedience and spiritual growth?

Q: Why is keeping God's commandments and living for HIM, "NOT burdensome"?