

FAITH, OBEDIENCE, and LOVE - A BRAIDED CORD

I John 2:3-6 (NLT)

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Bruce Russell

Connected Topics

1. “easy believism” - *saying a prayer or claiming a promise* but experiencing no progressive change in the *head, heart, and hand*. (Matthew 7:21-29)
2. “apostasy” - the rejection of the *Christian* religion. (Matthew 13:24-30)
3. “legalism” - an unwavering allegiance to the rules of a religion. (Luke 18:9-14)

FAITH - “Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.” (Oswald Chambers)

^{Hebrew 11:1} Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. ...

⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. ...

¹³ All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. ¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. ¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. ¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

“The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the same coin.” (A. W. Tozer)

OBEDIENCE - “O-b-e-d-i-e-n-c-e, obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.”

“God's commands are designed to guide you to life's very best. You will not obey Him, if you do not believe Him and trust Him. You cannot believe Him if you do not love Him. You cannot love Him unless you know Him.” (Henry Blackaby)

“Truth without obedience is hypocrisy; obedience without truth is legalism.” (Jack Wellman)

“Obedience is how Christians should live, not how they are saved.”

^{I Kings 8:22} Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, ²³ and he prayed, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven above or on the earth below. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion.”

LOVE - In all relationships, we show our love by serving.

^{John 14:23} Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.

What God promises to do for His Chosen People, He has already done for us! ^{Ezekiel 36:25} “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony,

stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

TODAY'S TEXT

1 John 2:3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

Amplified: And this is how we may discern [daily, by experience] that we are coming to know Him [to perceive, recognize, understand, and become better acquainted with Him]: if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) His teachings (precepts, commandments).

“You can only learn what obedience is by obeying.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

1 John 2:4 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.

Amplified: Whoever says, I know Him [I perceive, recognize, understand, and am acquainted with Him] but fails to keep and obey His commandments (teachings) is a liar, and the Truth of the Gospel is not in him.

Phillips: The man who claims to know God but does not obey his laws is not only a liar but lives in self-delusion. In practice, the more a man learns to obey God's laws the more truly and fully does he express his love for him.

1 John 2:5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

Amplified: But he who keeps (treasures) His Word [who bears in mind His precepts, who observes His message in its entirety], truly in him has the love of and for God been perfected (completed, reached maturity). By this we may perceive (know, recognize, and be sure) that we are in Him:

1 John 2:6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Amplified: Whoever says he abides in Him ought [as [d]a personal debt] to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself.

Conclusion

Romans 12:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.