

Christian-ish—2

Selective obedience is the dangerous illusion that doing some of what God commands is enough, when it's really disobedience in disguise.

Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper ... Deuteronomy 5:33 NIV

“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then ... you will be my treasured possession. ...” Exodus 19:5 NIV

“If they listen and obey God, they will be blessed ...”

Job 36:11 NLT

Two Things These Verses Have in Common

- 1. God is asking for our full obedience.**
- 2. Some of God's blessings are conditional.**

Covenant Theology

The New Covenant

- Unconditional promise: Jesus died and rose again, offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who believe.**
- Conditional blessings: While salvation is a gift, certain blessings flow from obedience to God.**

God doesn't want our partial obedience; God wants our full surrender.

You do it one step at a time.

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites ... ⁸He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. ⁹But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. ...

1 Samuel 15:7-9 NIV

Disobedience always starts with a whisper.

What you allow in the moment often owns you in the future.

Where are you letting sin whisper its way into your life?

“But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

1 Samuel 15:20-21 NIV

Every sin we justify builds a wall between us and God.

But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice ...” 1 Samuel 15:22 NIV

Every act of obedience is a demonstration of our love to the One who loved us first.

... this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. ... 1 John 5:3-4 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **1 Samuel 15:20-22**. What stands out to you in these verses? How do they influence your view or understanding of sin?

Read **1 John 5:3-4**. Talk about a time when you chose obedience when it was difficult. How did that choice build your relationship with God?

Where are you letting sin whisper its way into your life? Discuss ways you can turn toward God the next time you're tempted to justify sin.

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