



Loving Obedience (The key to pleasing God)

As Christians we are saved by grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. However if we are to live in the fullness of that grace, once we become a Christian, we need to learn to be obedient to that which pleases Him. Obedience for a Christian is not what saves us, but is an authentic expression that Jesus is truly Lord of our lives, that we love Him and want to please Him.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

- Q1) Why do you think submission and obedience is difficult for most of us?
- Q2) What areas do you think it is easy / hard to obey God in?
- Q3) What do you think the difference is between **loving obedience** and **duty obedience**?

So what does Scripture say about obeying God?:-

Point 1 - Love is at the Root of Godly Obedience !!

All the way through both the Old Testament and the New, God establishes clear covenant relationship with His people. In the centre of God's expectations for His people He calls us to love Him first and out of this love for Him, obey what He says!! When you are in Love with someone your natural desire is to please them. The Lord is looking for obedience to overflow out of our gratitude and love for Him and what He has done in our lives through Jesus. Obedience to God even when it is hard should not be a burden or duty - **but a joy** - for it is an opportunity to show God how much we love Him. Time and time again, throughout Scripture, the call to obey God comes in the context of loving Him!!

The Greatest Commandment is to Love the Lord, for if you love Him you will obey ALL that He calls you to
Matthew 22 v 34 - 40 _____

John 14 v 15 - 24 _____

Point 2 - Obedience to Christ establishes a firm, strong and mature faith.

The key to successful Kingdom living is to follow the blueprint that God has laid out for you. In His Word, there is clear and practical teaching about how to dwell and grow in the fullness of life God has for you. Jesus Himself said "I have come that you might have life and life in all it's fullness!" To live in this fullness of life is to build your life, relationship, and character on the foundation of His precepts, that you might be secured and enriched by His daily promises and blessing. Even when the storms of life come against us (and at times they will) if we build our lives on Jesus, our faith will endure and even grow!!

Matthew 7 v 24 - 29 _____

Point 3 - Obedience releases and deepens the power and authority of God in your life!!

Simple principle of Christian living is that we no longer belong to ourselves but to God. We are adopted into His family and made a Kingdom person. As a result of this we come under His authority, power and protection. As a child of the King we are **abundantly provided** for by Him. For this to be manifested fully we need to make sure we are living daily under that authority and power. To be disobedient results in us putting ourselves outside of Christ's authority and alienates us from the promises and favour of God. To realise the power and

Authority of Christ's salvation there is laid upon us a clear necessity to be obedient Children of the King!!

1 Peter 1 v 3 - 14 _____

As we can see, obedience is a true manifestation of a life changing encounter with Jesus. Where as we once lived for ourselves, controlled only by our own desires and internal sense of right and wrong. Now we come under the authority of God and live for Him. The outworking of this, is building with bricks of daily obedience, obeying His Word and Spirit in all areas of our lives. Mature Christian living is a outworking of loving obedience to God, His Word and His Church!!

