

## Celebrate God with Your Obedience, Part 1 | the best thing

**I. Foundational Concepts**

- **Obedience is worship.** Worship is obedience, and obedience is worship. They cannot be separated from each other. They are truly one and the same.
- **Obedience is love.**
  - Exodus 20:6; Joshua 22:5; John 14:15, 23-24
  - According to our Creator, obedience is the necessary outcome of genuine love for God.
- **Obedience must be learned.**
  - Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:8; Luke 2:52
  - You do not come hardwired to worship God, love Him, and obey Him. In fact, the Bible says we come into this world with sin and foolishness knotted up in our hearts. We don't seek after God, and we passionately pursue self-worship at every opportunity until the moment God opens our eyes to our need for Him.
  - Progressive sanctification is the process of growing in our love, worship, and obedience. Not only does obedience need to be learned the first time, it's something that we're constantly learning.

**II. The Definition of Obedience**

- **True obedience is doing the right thing.**
  - Sometimes we disobey because we don't want to do what we know is right, but other times it's because we *don't know* what's right.
  - But how can we know what's right? (John 18:38)
- **The Doctrine of Truth**
  - Since God is Who He says He is, then — as the Creator of the universe — He is the absolute Authority, and He definitely gets to decide what's right and wrong. And since He never changes, His definition of right and wrong will never change. All Truth then is God's Truth. (Genesis 4:3-7; Leviticus 10:1-2; Acts 5:1-11)
  - **We must study to know what is right.**
  - **We must do what we learn is right.**

**III. The Consequences of Disobedience**

- Romans 6:16-18
- If you present yourself to someone as a slave, you *belong* to them. With that seemingly obvious metaphor, Paul tells us that if enslave ourselves to to sin, we will earn death, but if we enslave ourselves to obedience, we inherit righteousness.
- Why are we sometimes so cavalier with our sin? How can we abide our bad attitudes? Why do we make excuses when we listen to music that doesn't glorify God? Why do we try to ignore the nagging in our spirit when we get into or stay in romantic relationships with people we know aren't drawing us to the Lord? What about our pessimistic or unkind or complaining speech?
- Every time we disobey, we're enslaving ourselves to sin. We're earning destruction and/or death.
- There is no such thing as the "freedom" defined by Hollywood. All humans are *always* subject to someone. There may be a few humans who are genuinely free from any responsibility to other men, but . . . we're all responsible to our Creator. We're either a slave to sin or a slave to God. There are no other options. And praise God for the joyous reality that we get to be His slave!

#### IV. Evangelism and Discipleship toward Obedience

- **We need to show the world who God is and how Truth cannot exist without Him.**
  - The atheist worldview is a depressing one indeed.
  - We have the opportunity to show them the true joy that comes from living the way we were created to live.
- **We need to introduce them to God in a way that they are in awe of Him.**
  - We serve an awesome God!
  - Are you passionate about the awesomeness of God? How can we encourage others to be passionate about Him if we ourselves aren't passionate about obeying our Savior? We need to model for the crowd of people in our lives the unfathomable amazingness of God.
- **We need to teach them what love is.**
  - What is love? This topic is so incredibly important because the world has no idea what it is to love themselves well let alone love another human or God.
  - In fact, the idea of truly loving God is foreign in so many religions because people basically worship their deity as a duty based out of fear. You can't love an impersonal, uncommunicative, unsacrificial god.
- **As they learn what love is, they'll learn that loving God requires obedience.** The two concepts are inseparable.
- **And then we will need to teach them what biblical obedience really is.**
  - This study is first and foremost for us, but it's also for our friends and children and fellow church members and coworkers and communities.
  - Jesus commissioned all of His disciples with these three tasks: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.*"
  - That "*teaching them to observe all that I commanded you*" is obedience. It's the third part of being a disciple of God. We become disciples by putting our trust in Him, then we're baptized, and then we learn to obey all that God expects of us.
  - And the first lesson we all need to learn is that obedience is doing the right thing.
  - But this is just the first, most superficial understanding of obedience. There is still so much more to learn, and I look forward to walking through it with you.