

NOTES

~ *Obedience* ~

- We need to be obedient to **God and the Christ**
 - We prove our love for Jesus through obedience (**John 14:15 & 23**)
 - Commandments: that we honor God and are benevolent to our brothers and sisters in the Christ (**Matthew 22:35-40**)

- How can we start to be obedient?
 - Learn about God and His ways . . .
 - Turn faith into action. (**James 2:14-17**)
 - Repent of behavior God hates. (**Acts 11:18; Romans 2:5**)
 - Take our thoughts captive out of obedience to the Christ. (2Corinthians 10:5)

- Obedience to **humans in authority**
 - Daniel was an excellent role model on many levels including how to honor those in authority over us. He treated King Nebuchadnezzar honorably, which gave God the ability to work wonders through Daniel (i.e. revealing dreams/interpretations - Daniel 2:26-49)
 - God allows or gives authority as He wills (**Daniel 2:37-38, Daniel 4:24-25, John 19:11, and Romans 13:1**)
 - Respect man's authority over you (**1Peter 2:12-14**)
 - But obey God over man (**Acts 5:27-29**)

- Consequences of being **obedient**: entry into the kingdom of heaven (as discussed in **Matthew 25:34-36**) and the Spirit of God (Acts 2:38, and 5:32)

- Consequences of being **disobedient**:
 - To God: judgment and hell (**Matthew 25:41-43; Colossians 5:3**)
 - Human authority: the same – judgment and hell (**Hebrews 13:17** and 2Peter 2:9-10)

- **Summary**: We are to be obedient to God and our Christ in spreading the Gospel and taking care of the brothers and sisters in Jesus. We're also to be obedient to our leaders unless there's a conflict between God's ways and man's. Everlasting life awaits those who are obedient out of their faith. Judgment and hell await the disobedient.

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Review

We've discussed Jesus' **commission**: preach the Gospel and make disciples. We must do these things in addition to honoring God and being benevolent to our fellow brothers and sisters of the faith out of obedience to **God and the Christ**

Prove disciples by obedience to agape love

In fact, Jesus said this is how we **prove our love** for Him. Love is a very misunderstood concept with most people believing it's the feeling/emotion of fondness we feel for others or for the concept of Jesus. However, true **agape** love that Jesus is speaking of is actionable and not based on emotion. True love means doing the right thing despite how we feel . . .

[John 14:15 & 23]

Commandments = honor and charity

So, what are the **commandments** Jesus said we are to obey, and that prove we're His disciples? **Honor** God and be **benevolent** to our brothers and sisters in the Christ as we've already discussed briefly.

[Matthew 22:35-40]

10 Commandments halves

What we learn from this reference is that we'll be judged by our obedience to these commandments Jesus gave. Do you know that the first half of the **Ten Commandments** deals with our treatment of God, and that the second half deals with our treatment of our fellow humans?

Start to be obedient through learning, application, repentance, and self-control

So, how can we start to be obedient to our God and Christ, and their commandments? We can learn about God, apply His ways as we learn about them through actions such as charity and repentance, and take our thoughts captive as we exercise true worship through self-control.

LEARN!

Learn about God and His ways. We do this through regular study of the Scriptures and New Testament letters and gospels. Paul tells us this will not only build our faith but also keep us from following fables and being deceived . . .

Actions born out of thought/intent

Turn **faith into action**. Belief alone is useless to God, our Christ, and everyone else for that matter. Christian love is actionable – agape – as was/is God and the Christ’s.

[**James 2:14-17**]

Repent of behavior God hates. There’ll be no forgiveness without repentance, and no salvation without forgiveness. This ‘repentance’ declares that we have a change of behavior that results from a change in behavior. We stop doing the things that are displeasing to God and don’t look back.

Feeling sorry isn’t enough. We must act . . .

[**Acts 11:18; Romans 2:5**]

Must take captive!

Take our **thoughts captive** out of obedience to the Christ. (2Corinthians 10:5)

To be obedient, we must stay focused on the truth and our **actions that are born out of thought**. Remember that sin is action or intent that comes out of thought. The thought itself – temptation – isn’t sin unless it leads to the intent to commit sinful behavior. The idea of stopping thoughts/temptation before they take root and become sin is so important that we’re told to “**take our thoughts captive out of obedience to the Christ**” (2Corinthians 10:5).

Must obey humans!

We’re also to be obedient to **humans in authority**. Why is this important?

God allows or give authority

First, God allows or gives authority as He sees fit in the accomplishment of **His desires**. Who are we to try to alter His plans for rebel against them?

Lack of respect damages a witness

Second, the **lack** of respect of authority is not only rebellion against God and His ways, but it can also **restrict our ability to be an ‘impeccable’ witness** for the Gospel.

Jesus, Daniel, and Paul are great examples of honoring leadership

Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (mention vision and interpretation)

God was able to work through Daniel

God allows or gives authority

Must respect authority to be a good witness

God wins . . .

Do we have any great **examples** of how we should honor those in authority over us? Yes! **Jesus, Daniel, and Paul** are probably the best examples I can think of.

Let's look at Daniel, who was a young man captured in his youth and deported from his home in Jerusalem to Babylon in about 605 BCE. King **Nebuchadnezzar** took the wise and skilled from their homeland to keep his enemy from being able to rebel and to improve his own kingdom.

Daniel was an excellent role model on many levels including how to honor those in authority over us. He treated King Nebuchadnezzar honorably, which gave **God the ability to work wonders through Daniel** (revealing dreams and interpretations, for instance (Daniel 2:26-49).

We learned from Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams that **God allows or gives authority** as He wills. Jesus and Paul reiterated this.

[Daniel 2:37-38]

[Daniel 4:24-25]

[John 19:11]

[Romans 13:1]

Because God gives or at least allows authority, we must respect man's authority over us. Again, this ensures we honor God and remain an impeccable **witness**.

[1Peter 2:12-14]

However, God still wins. We must obey God whenever there's a conflict between His commandments and the laws of man.

[Acts 5:27-29]

Actions have consequences

Obedient = eternal life; our hope of Jesus and life;

. . . and the Holy Spirit

Consequences of disobedience to God = hell

Consequences of disobedience to man = hell

Being an effective witness

Now, our actions usually have **consequences**; those of obedience and disobedience are no exception.

Consequences of being **obedient** include entry into the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. Our '**hope**' is the confidence of future salvation at Jesus' appearing and our gathering. Our judgment will be to determine rewards for our faithfulness.

[Mat 25:34-36]

The obedient also receive the Spirit of God (Acts 2:38, and 5:32).

Consequences of being **disobedient** to God include judgment and **hell**. Amazingly, we forget that not making a choice to be obedient is no different than being disobedient. This is probably why the group on Jesus' left in the following Scripture sound surprised (if you read the entire passage). Obedience and disobedience and their consequences are the only options – there's no middle ground.

[Matthew 25:41-43]

Consequences of **disobeying Human authority are the same** as disobedience to God since obedience to our rulers is a commandment from God: judgment and hell

[Hebrews 13:17]

Again, it's critical to also remember that disobedience to God and Christ can keep us from being able to be an **effective witness**. We're under a lot of scrutiny from the world and must live pious lives. This doesn't mean making long lists of do's and don'ts – it means having the right intent/heart and using it to try to be perfect like God is as we follow Jesus.

Summary

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If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. . . . Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” —John 14:15 & 23.

One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” —Matthew 22:35-40.

What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. —James 2:14-17.

When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.” —Acts 11:18.

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God —Romans 2:5.

“You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.” —Daniel 2:37-38.

this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. — Daniel 4:24-25.

Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” —John 19:11.

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. —Romans 13:1.

Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. —1Peter 2:12-14.

When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. —Acts 5:27-29.

Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' —Matthew 25:34-36.

Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' —Matthew 25:41-43.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. —Hebrews 13:17.