

NOTES

~ *The Greatest Commandment ... & the Other One Too!* ~

- We're **commanded** to be **obedient** out of our **faith** in our two-way relationship with God. This is how we prove we *love* Him (**John 14:15, 21, & 31**; 1John 5:2-3).
- Commandment defined: Authoritative prescription; a **precept**.
- What is *love* in the context of keeping the commandments? Actions in a social or moral sense; benevolence; **charity**. Right *action* despite emotion.
- What is the *faith* that should result in actionable, obedient love? **Confidence** in our God and Christ that comes from discipleship, study, etc.
- Which commandments should we obey?
 - **God's** commandments: Ten in particular; the first 5 deal with our relationship with Him; the other 5 relate to treatment of mankind (**Deuteronomy 5:7-16; Deuteronomy 5:17-21**; Matthew 19:17-21).
 - **Jesus'** commandments = God's commandments simplified: Honor Him with all we have; be charitable to others (**Matthew 22:36-40**; John 13:34-35).
- Obedience won't always be easy!
 - Example: The Apostle Paul and his ministry (shipwrecked, beaten, starved, stoned and left for dead, imprisoned, and martyred).
 - Perseverance will be necessary – especially in the last days (**Revelation 12:17** and **14:12**)!
- Everlasting life for the obedient (2Corinthians 5:10; **Matthew 25:31-40**).
- The disobedient will be judged and punished!
 - Anyone claiming to believe in Jesus but doesn't act/love is a liar (1John 2:3-6); Faith without action is useless (**James 2:14-20**).
 - Anyone who doesn't *follow* our God and Christ will suffer judgment and wrath (**Matthew 25:41-46**; Galatians 5:19-21).
- **Summary:** God the *Father of Spirits* and our Christ have commanded us to honor God with all that we are and have and treat others charitably. Our obedience out of faith proves we truly love God and is how we'll be judged in the last days. Repent, if necessary. Grow in faith. Honor & obey. Live!

~ *The Greatest Commandment ... & the Other One Too!* ~

Introduction:
Obedience out of faith

Introduction: We're **commanded** to be **obedient** out of our **faith** in our two-way relationship with God. This is how we prove we *love* Him (**John 14:15, 21, & 31**; 1John 5:2-3).

[John 14:15, 21, & 31]

True love = **action**
Faith is **NOT** blind

You'll learn that true love is *actionable*. We wouldn't act on what we don't believe. And, we wouldn't – or shouldn't – believe in something we're not confident of. In other words: Faith isn't *blind* and should result in action as commanded by our God and Christ. So, let's look at what a 'commandment' is, what 'love' *should* be, and what faith must be defined as.

Define **commandment**

Commandment defined: Authoritative prescription; a **precept**. A commandment isn't a suggestion or recommendation – it's an order . . .

Love = charity

What is *love* in the context of keeping the commandments? Actions in a social or moral sense; benevolence; **charity**. Right *action* despite emotion.

Agape defined

You can say, therefore, that true love is doing the right thing despite how we feel. This is unlike the two main human emotional 'loves' of lust and fondness.

Faith = confidence

What is the *faith* that should result in actionable, obedient love? **Confidence** in our God and Christ that comes from discipleship, study, etc.

Why disciple?

The Bible is full of admonishments to study, and to be mentored as a disciple and taught. In fact, the Apostle Paul reminds us several times that this is necessary for several reasons:

1. Be wise unto salvation.
2. To grow in faith.
3. To be able to resist temptation and avoid false doctrine.
4. Defense of our faith.

Again, this faith, which is the same as belief and confidence, comes from instruction and mentoring through reading, hearing, discipleship, etc.

Next: commandment we're to obey

Next, we'll talk about the specific commandments we're to obey.

Which ones to obey?

God's

- No other gods
- Make no idols
- Not God's name in vain
- Sabbath
- Honor mom & dad

Instructions given to help in righteousness

Jesus':

It's always been about God!

- Honor God (1st 5 of His)
- Charity (last 5 of His)

Which commandments must we obey?

God's commandments:

There are ten in particular; the first 5 deal with our relationship with Him; the other 5 relate to treatment of our fellow man (**Deuteronomy 5:7-16; Deuteronomy 5:17-21**; Matthew 19:17-21).

God gave these commandments to the Israelites on the original Pentecost 50 days from exiting Egypt when the 'Passover' occurred. They were about to enter a land full of idol worship and the honoring of evil entities. Practices in the land included infant sacrifice and other atrocities.

The instructions given by God to His people were meant to keep them focused on right and healthy living. They're still relevant to us in our treatment of God and fellow human.

[Deuteronomy 5:7-16]

[Deuteronomy 5:17-21]

Jesus' commandments = God's commandments summarized: Honor Him with all we have; be charitable to others (**Matthew 22:36-40**; John 13:34-35).

Everything has always been about our God, *is* about our God, and *will be* about Him. Even Jesus the Messiah was obedient to His request to come to earth, inhabit a human form, die to end all sacrifices, and be raised from the dead three days later to fulfill a promise.

So it should come as no surprise that Jesus' commandments echoed God's. Jesus gave them in response to a malicious attempt to trip Him up:

1. Honor God the Father with everything we are and all that we have.
2. Be charitable to our fellow human.

Jesus said that these two commandments represent, or summarize, all instructions contained in the Law and the utterances of the prophets.

[Matthew 22:36-40]

Obedience can be **hard!**

1. We're our own worst enemy
2. Conditions outside our control

Talk about the past: Paul and the others

Talk about the future

Why do it? What's in it for us? God is **just** and keeps His promises!

- Avoid God's **wrath**
- **Reward**

More on the disobedient ...

But, obedience to the commandments won't always be easy!

First, we're probably our own worst enemy when it comes to the tough nature of obedience since the desire to satisfy the 'flesh' can be difficult to resist. Remember, we're *spirit* housed inside this vehicle made of flesh and blood.

Second, external influences beyond our control will counter our obedient actions. For instance, we know from the Bible that we're to expect trouble and persecution if we follow Jesus, who make this very clear. History corroborates this by recording the murder of 12 of Jesus' 13 disciples along with many apostles.

A great example of persecution in response to obedience out of faith: The Apostle Paul and his ministry (shipwrecked, beaten, starved, stoned and left for dead, imprisoned, and martyred).

That was the past. What about the future? Perseverance will be necessary in the last days (**Revelation 12:17** and **14:12**)!

[Revelation 12:17 and 14:12]

So, why go through all this trouble to follow? What's in it for those who do?

The Bible tells us that all spiritual beings from the time of creation will be judged in the last days for how they used their bodies for obedience . . . or disobedience.

Some will be judged and punished by God in His wrath with hell for their disobedience. Satan and the fallen angels will fall into this category. More on that in a moment . . .

Others will be judged and unimaginably rewarded while also enjoying everlasting life for their obedience (2Corinthians 5:10; **Matthew 25:31-40**). A little earthly discomfort will be a small price to pay for being reconciled with our creator!

[Matthew 25:31-40]

OK . . . Let's get back to the disobedient.

Because God is just, the disobedient will be punished!

The disobedient are liars!

Action without faith is **useless** as is knowledge without application or passing!

Judgment for ANY disobedient spirit

- Reminder that hell was created for Satan and his angels

Summary

Make no mistake: The disobedient will be judged and punished!

Anyone claiming to *believe* in Jesus but doesn't act/love is a liar (1John 2:3-6). We can't claim that we believe in God and our Christ while being 'unfaithful' and disobedient at the same time.

In fact, James, the brother of Jesus, tells us that faith without action is useless (**James 2:14-20**). After all, what good does a simple acknowledgement that God and Jesus exist do for Them – or for our fellow man? Remember the actionable love we've already talked about?

[James 2:14-20]

Anyone who doesn't *follow* our God and Christ will suffer judgment and wrath (**Matthew 25:41-46**; Galatians 5:19-21). This includes all spiritual beings that abuse their bodies and/or don't use them to accomplish the desires of our heavenly Father.

[Matthew 25:41-46]

Summary: God the *Father of Spirits* and our Christ have commanded us to honor God with all that we are and have and to treat others charitably. Our obedience out of faith proves we truly love God and is how we'll be judged in the last days. Repent, if necessary. Grow in faith. Honor & obey. Live!

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” —**John 14:15.**

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” —**John 14:21.**

but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.” —**John 14:31.**

Commandment #1: You shall have no other gods before Me. —**Deuteronomy 5:7.**

Commandment #2: You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. —**Deuteronomy 5:8-10.**

Commandment #3: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. —**Deuteronomy 5:11.**

Commandment #4: Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; . . . You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day. —**Deuteronomy 5:12-15.**

Commandment #5: Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you. —**Deuteronomy 5:16.**

Commandment #6: You shall not murder. —**Deuteronomy 5:17.**

Commandment #7: You shall not commit adultery. —**Deuteronomy 5:18.**

Commandment #8: You shall not steal. —**Deuteronomy 5:19.**

Commandment #9: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. —**Deuteronomy 5:20.**

Commandment #10: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. —**Deuteronomy 5:21.**

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 22:36-40.**

So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. —**Revelation 12:17.**

Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. —**Revelation 14:12.**

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 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 25:31-40.**

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. But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? —**James 2:14-20.**

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.’ . . . These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” —**Matthew 25:41-46.**