

The Christian and Obedience

Jesus once taught the following parable:

"A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' "And he answered and said, ' I will, sir'; and he did not go. "And he came to the second and said the same thing. But he answered and said, 'I will not'; yet he afterward regretted it and went. Then he asked a group of religious leaders: "Which of the sons did the will of his father?" The people answered correctly that it was the son who actually obeyed and finally did what his father had commanded. "Jesus then said to them: 'Truly I say to you that the tax-gatherers and harlots will get into the kingdom of God before you' (Matthew 21:28-32). As we will see, the Bible clearly teaches that real faith involves more than mere words, it requires obedience.

How do we know if we really have love for Christ?

John 14:21 - Has Christ's commands and obeys them

1 John 5:3 - Obey's God's commands

Luke 6:46 - Does what the Lord says (Love= Obedience)

1 John 2:6 - Walks in the same manner as Christ

What are the commandments of God?

- John 14:23-24 - Christ's teachings = the words of the Father

Which ones are the greatest?

- Matthew 22:37-40 - Love God with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself.

Biblical examples

A. Disobedience of Saul

- 1 Samuel 15:1-3
- 1 Samuel 15:7-9
- 1 Samuel 15:17-24

B. Obedience of Paul

- Acts 9:1-22

What is our motivation to live obediently for Christ?

A. Motivation: Love - God is our father

1. Be imitators of God as dearly loved children (Ephesians 5:1-2)
2. Christ's love compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

3. We care for the lost (Luke 15:11-24, especially verse 20)

B. Motivation: Fear - God is our judge

1. Live as strangers here in reverent fear (1 Peter 1:14-19)
2. Submit to one another out of fear for Christ (Ephesians 5:13-21)
3. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:5-12)

C. Motivation: Blessing - God is our rewarder

1. God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Obeying God's word brings great reward (Psalm 19:7-11)
3. Obeying God's Word brings prosperity and success (Joshua 1:8)

Is obedience optional for Christians?

Memory verse: Romans 1:16