

Heritage Basics

Lesson 12: Obedience

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:3-4

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

NOTE: Christians are called to love the Lord Jesus with their whole soul, heart, mind and strength. This is the type of love we should not only say we have but we should have in practice. I look at the church today and I don't see that same kind of devotion, commitment, and abandonment that this type of love demands. We should be sold-out to divine priorities. We have so many options today that we often give equal or sometimes even greater weight to the fleeting things of life over and above the things of eternity.

- I. **The Call to Obedience-** "As obedient Children... like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior." –1 Peter 1:14-15

A. The Call to Obey God's Commands

1. In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____
2. What is expected of those who hear God's Word (James 1:22)? _____

B. The Call to Follow Christ

1. What is required of a person who follows Jesus (Luke 9:23)?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. How did Jesus set the example for us when suffering for His obedience to God (1 Peter 2:20-23)? _____

- C. **The Call to Submission-** "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?" –Romans 6:16

How should we present ourselves to God (Romans 12:1)?

II. Obedience Marks a True Believer

A. Look at 1 John 2:3-4 (memory verse).

1. What does obeying the Word of God demonstrate?

2. What does continuous disobedience to the Word of God indicate?

B. What characterizes the true believer as one who will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21)?

*“But whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.
By this we know that we are in Him.” –1 John 2:5*

III. Examples of Disobedience

A. Read 1 Samuel 15:16-23. Instead of being completely obedient to God’s command, King Saul substituted his own way of worship and excused his disobedience.

1. What was Samuel’s reply? How did he compare obedience and sacrifice (verse 22)?

2. To what are stubbornness and rebellion compared (verse 23)?

3. What did Saul’s disobedience cost him (verse 23)?

B. Consider Zechariah 7:8-14.

1. How did the people react to God’s instruction (verses 11-12)?

2. How did it affect their prayers (verse 13)?

3. What was the result (verse 14)?

IV. Examples of Obedience – The Old Testament contains numerous examples of obedience. Notice the Old Testament heroes of faith and obedience listed in Hebrews 11.

A. Abraham's obedience

1. What were two of Abraham's great acts of obedience?

a. Genesis 12:1-4; Hebrews 11:8 _____

b. Genesis 22:1-12 _____

2. Because Abraham obeyed God, what three things did God promise to Abraham's son (Genesis 26:2-5)?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

B. Christ's Example of Obedience

1. What was Christ's primary concern on earth (John 4:34)?

2. Even when facing the cross, what was Christ's attitude (Luke 22:42)?

3. To what extent was Jesus willing to be obedient (Philippians 2:8)?

V. The Promise and Blessings of Obedience

A. List some blessings that are promised to us if we obey God's commandments.

1. John 15:10 _____

2. John 15:14 _____

3. 1 John 3:22 _____

B. To what does Jesus compare the life of a person who hears and obey His Word (Matthew 7:24-27)? _____

VI. Areas of Obedience

A. What are all Christians to be taught concerning Christ's commands (Matthew 28:20)?

B. Read each verse below. Fill in who is to be obedient to whom and why.

1. Colossians 3:20

a. Who? _____ **To Whom?** _____

b. Why? _____

2. Ephesians 5:22-24

a. Who? _____ **To Whom?** _____

b. Why? _____

_____ (See Ephesians 5:25-32)

3. Ephesians 6:5-8

a. Who? _____ **To Whom?** _____

b. Why? _____

4. Hebrews 13:17

a. Who? _____ **To Whom?** _____

b. Why? _____

5. Romans 13:1

a. Who? _____ **To Whom?** _____

b. Why? _____

C. What should a wife do if her husband is an unbeliever (1 Peter 3:1)?

D. What if a servant (or employee) has an "impossible" employer? What should that servant or employee do (1 Peter 2:18-19)?

VII. Our Attitude toward Obedience- We must remember that all our good works apart from faith are like a filthy garment (Isaiah 64:6). Obedience without genuine faith avails nothing. Our obedience must grow out of a heart of sincere faith toward God.

A. What was the basis of all Abraham’s obedience (Hebrews 11:8)? _____

B. Read the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32). Which son had the better attitude? Why?

C. Using Peter as our example, how should we respond when God’s Word seems contrary to our own judgment (Luke 5:4-7)?

D. Read Ephesians 6:6.

1. How should we view ourselves in relation to Christ? _____

2. What should be our attitude in doing the will of God? _____

“So you to, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’” –Luke 17:10

VIII. Application

A. What does it mean to “present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1)? _____

B. What have you learned about the consequences of disobedience?

C. In what areas of your life does God want greater obedience?
