

## Obedience Pt 4 obedience in the family shows our heart

This is our fourth and final teaching on the topic of obedience. In our previous study we covered three points: (i) Christ wrought a work to make the Gentiles obedient by word and deed, (ii) There are those who obey not the gospel of God, and (iii) God gives His Holy Ghost to them that obey Him.. In this study we will cover an additional three points - (i) Children obey your parents, (ii) wives obey your husbands, and (iii) in the family of God- we are to obey those who have the rule over us.

A little more detail on our three points- according to the scriptures-

### 1. Children obey your parents and honour them.

[1] Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

[2] Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (Eph.6: 1-2).

The verse from Colossians adds- this is well- pleasing unto the Lord.

[21] Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

[21] Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged (Col.3: 20-21).

A son is to obey the voice of his father

[8] Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

[13] And his mother said unto him, Upon me [be] thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. Gen.27: 8, 13. See also Gen 27: 43, 7

When children in Israel obeyed not the voice of their father and mother, when they were stubborn and rebellious- they were to be chastened.

“If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and [that], when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them” (Deut.21: 18).

### 2. Wives are to be obedient to their own husbands

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Tit.2: 5).

Wives are to be in subjection to their own husbands in everything

[22] Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

[23] For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

[24] Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Ephesians 5:22-24. See also (1 Pet.3: 1, 6).

### 3. In the family of God we are to obey those who have the rule over us, and submit to them

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy...” (Heb.13: 17).

Submit to those who have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints

[15] I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

[16] That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us... (1 Cor.16: 15-16).

When we obey the voice of our elders - there is blessing -

[8] Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

[10] But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us. (Jer.35: 8, 10).

And let us remember that It pleases the LORD, HE DELIGHTS IN His children's OBEDIENCE more than sacrifice

“And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings...as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15: 22).

God rewards those that obey Him by - showing mercy to them

“And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Ex.20: 6).

#### Illustration

When a child is estranged (no longer close) from one or other parent for an extended period of time, it would be unreasonable for the father or mother to walk back into their life, and expect obedience, submission from their children. The parent could stand on their horse and say- yes, but the word of God says, or you must. But until the child has built up a solid relationship with the parent to whom they were separated from, they as the stronger, would be wise to take the wrong, bear the burdens of the children, and walk alongside their children at their pace. As God does ours. Our heavenly Father does not put the bar up to level 100 for those of His children who are either infants, or have fallen away for a time. Our Father’s love, compassion, is overflowing, as a parent should be to their children. But when we stand up against our Father’s words, or our children stand up against their parent’s instruction then they have just crossed the line into being stiffnecked disobedient and rebellious- and that’s a place none of us want to be with our heavenly Father.

#### Questions

- i) Are any of us expected to make a leap from where we are today to where the word of God says is well-pleasing to the Lord, is being obedient to the Father?
- ii) Why is it well-pleasing for a child to obey their father and mother?
- iii) What is the foundation for a person to desire in their heart- to be obedient to God?

#### Answers from the scriptures

- i) God is interested in our heart’s response to His words!

#### Examples-

a) Is your first response like Saul- I am not doing that, or they made me do it, that is not what it means, that is not practical? or

b) Is your first response- wow- that’s a big gap from where I am to where God requires me to be. Ask for help and start praying to your loving heavenly Father- help me to get to where I can desire to be obedient in all aspects of my life- at home in the family, within the church environment, and at work.

ii) When a child is rebellious, or disobedient to their father and mother they show how they will likely respond to their heavenly Father- rebellious and disobedient. “To train a child to be obedient- when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov.22:6). When parent imposes chastisement on their child, and they obey their father and mother, they create in the child a heart that is more likely, to one day, submit to God more readily than a child that is disobedient, rebellious and stiffnecked toward their parents.

iii) There are three things are foundational for obedience to our heavenly Father-

A) LOVE: Jesus loved His heavenly Father and obeyed Him even unto death

“But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence” (Jn.14:31)- CF- Phil.2: 8- “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”.

When you **love the Lord Jesus Christ** you will keep His commandments

[15] If ye love me, keep my commandments.

[24] He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me (Jn.14: 15, 24)

Why? Because when we obey His words, we please Him! And we all want to please those whom we love, especially the Lord, especially the God and Father of our Lord Jesus’ Christ.

B) SUFFERING: Jesus **learnt obedience by the things He suffered**

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered” (Heb.5: 8).

C) FEAR: Paul links fear and trembling with obedience

Let us remember our brethren, their obedience- how with fear and trembling they received him

“And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him” (2 Cor.7: 15).

Let us look next week at what we can do to build our love for our heavenly Father, and so grow in our love for Him, that will have a positive affect on our hearts willingness to obey His word! And never stand up against His word, His voice, His Holy Spirit, nor those to whom we are to submit! Amen!