

Let's talk about Christian obedience

This Sunday; 5.24.20

- What is obedience grounded in?
- The two sides of Christian obedience.
- What does obedience look like?

Next Sunday; 5.31.20

- How do we obey?
- What role/impact does our obedience play/have now?
- What role/impact will our obedience play/have Last Day?

What is Christian obedience?

- Obedience is grounded in who God is
- Obedience is grounded in what God says
- Obedience is grounded in what God has done
- Obedience is the worship of God

Obedience is grounded in who God is

Leviticus 19:1-4

19 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, ¹You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ³“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and ^vyou shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. ⁴“Do not turn to idols ^xor make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

Revelation 4:11

¹¹ ^e“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for ^fyou created all things,
and ^gby your will they existed and were created.”

Acts 17:24-27

god.’ ^pWhat therefore you worship ^qas unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ ^rThe God who made the world and everything in it, being ⁵Lord of heaven and earth, ^tdoes not live in temples made by man, ³²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, ^uas though he needed anything, since he himself ^vgives to all mankind ^wlife and breath and everything. ²⁶ And ^xhe made from one man every nation of mankind to live ^yon all the face of the earth, ^zhaving determined allotted periods and ^athe boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ ^bthat they should seek God, ^cand perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

Obedience is grounded in what God says

Genesis 3:9-11

garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”⁴ ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, ^cbecause I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of ^{which I commanded you not to eat?”} ¹²The man said, ^d“The woman whom you gave

Titus 1:9

holy, ^vand disciplined. ⁹He must ^whold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in ^xsound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

standing people.’ ⁷For ^cwhat great nation is there that has ^da god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so ^erighteous as all this law that I set before you today?

Colossians 1:21-23

world, do you submit to regulations— ^{21 w}“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (^xreferring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to ^yhuman precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in ^zpromoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are ^aof no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Obedience is grounded in what God has done

Leviticus 19:33-37

³³“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and ^kyou shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

³⁵“You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. ³⁶ ^mYou shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: ³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ³⁷ And ⁿyou shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

⁶“For ^pyou are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be ^pa people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but ^qit is because the LORD loves you and is keeping ^rthe oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know

Deuteronomy 8:17-20

you good in the end. ¹⁷ Beware ^qlest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ ¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, for ^rit is he who gives you power to get wealth, ^sthat he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. ¹⁹ And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, ^tI solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. ²⁰ Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, ^uso shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Obedience is grounded in what God has done

Old Testament: there were physical blessings and curses tied to the obedience/disobedience of a physical chosen nation

New Testament: there are guaranteed spiritual blessings tied to Christ's obedience given to chosen people from all nations

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are ^za chosen race, ^aa royal ^bpriesthood, ^ca holy nation, ^da people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you ^eout of darkness into ^fhis marvelous light. ¹⁰ ^gOnce you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ephesians 1:3

³ ^eBlessed be ^fthe God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing ^gin the heavenly places, ⁴^heven as he ⁱchose us in him ^jbefore the foundation of the

Romans 8:1

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ¹ ²For the law of ^hthe Spirit of life ⁱhas set you ²free in

Obedience is the worship of God

1 Chronicles 16

²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
^xascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
^yWorship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;²

Hebrews 13

¹⁵ ^sThrough him then let us continually offer up ^ta sacrifice of praise to God, that is, ^uthe fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and ^vto share what you have, for such ^wsacrifices are pleasing to God.

Romans 12

12 ²I appeal to you therefore, brothers,¹ by the mercies of God, ^ato present your bodies ^bas a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, **which is your spiritual worship.**² ² ^cDo not be conformed to this world,³ but be transformed by ^dthe renewal of your mind, that by testing you may ^ediscern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.⁴

Hebrews 12

shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving ^ra kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus ^slet us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our ^tGod is a consuming fire.

Obedience is the worship of God

Worship is the human response to the self-revelation of the triune God.

This includes:

- divine initiation in which God reveals Himself, His purposes, and His will
- a spiritual and personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ on the part of the worshiper
- a response by the worshiper of adoration, humility, submission, and obedience to God

The two sides of Christian obedience

- Our actions – *what* we do.

James 1:22-25

²² But be ⁿdoers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, ^othe law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, ^phe will be blessed in his doing.

Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶ ^w“Why ^xdo you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ ^yEveryone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.³ ⁴⁹ ^zBut the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and ^athe ruin of that house was great.”

The two sides of Christian obedience

- Our motive – *why* we do what we do.

Isaiah 1:11

¹¹ ^a“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

Matthew 23

²⁵ ^j“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For ^kyou clean the outside of ^lthe cup and the plate,
but inside they are full of ^mgreed and self-indul-
gence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of
^lthe cup and the plate, that the outside also may be
clean.

As people with a fallen, sinful nature

- We naturally turn away from God's commands
- We naturally try to keep God's commands with the wrong motive

What does obedience (worship) look like?

- Love
- Faith and Trust
- Repentance and Confession
- Thankfulness

What does obedience look like: Love

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 "Hear, O Israel: ^dThe LORD our God, the LORD is one.² ^eYou shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And ^fthese words that I command you

John 14

¹⁵ ^b"If you love me, you will ^ckeep my commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40

mandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, ^g"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And ^ha second is like it: ⁱYou shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ ^jOn these two commandments depend ^kall the Law and the Prophets."

Love for God: embracing and praising him for who he is, having faith and trust in him, turning to him in repentance and confession, being thankful toward him for who he is and what he has done.

Love for neighbor: striving for the highest good of someone else, doing everything in one's power to supply the needs of other without self-interest.

What does obedience look like: Faith and Trust

Jeremiah 17

7 ^f“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
^gwhose trust is the LORD.

Romans 14

²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats,
because the eating is not from faith. For whatever
does not proceed from faith is sin.⁴

1 Corinthians 2

him crucified. ³ And ^aI was with you ^bin weakness
and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech
and my message were not in plausible words of
wisdom, but in demonstration of ^cthe Spirit and of
power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the
wisdom of men³ but ^din the power of God.

Having faith/trusting in God: embracing his word – his revelation of truth, his promises, his instruction – and living as though it is true; (having faith and trusting that God only speaks truth and that he will follow through).

What does obedience look like: Repentance and Confession

Ezekiel 18

3^o “Therefore ^qI will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. ^rRepent and turn from all your transgressions, ^slest iniquity be your ruin.⁴

Psalms 32

5 I ^qacknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I ^rwill confess my transgressions to the
LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

2 Corinthians 7

is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but ^wbecause you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰For ^xgodly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas ^yworldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what

1 John 1

from all sin. ⁸⁵If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and ^tthe truth is not in us. ⁹^uIf we confess our sins, he is ^vfaithful and just to forgive us our sins and ^rto cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Repentance bears the fruit of confession:

“We confess our sin before God, ask for forgiveness, and pursue godliness in keeping with the new life Christ gives” *corechristianity.com*

What does obedience look like: Thankfulness

Psalm 86

¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

Isaiah 12

^z“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
^amake known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim ^bthat his name is exalted.

Colossians 3

were called ⁿin one body. And ^obe thankful. ¹⁶ Let ^pthe word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, ^qsinging psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, ^rwith thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And ^swhatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, ^tgiving thanks to God the Father through him.

Being thankful includes: being mindful of and appreciating who God is, what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do. Additionally, this attitude reveals a view of God as the “giver of all good and perfect gift.”