

OBEDIENCE

The Attitude That Delights God

Study #15

In his excellent book, **“Growing Up God's Way,”** John A. Stormer has these things to say: *“'Obey' is the most important single word in the Bible. Being obedient is the key to receiving all of God's blessings. To be saved from sin and hell, a person must obey God's command . . . Acts 16:31. There are a multitude of other material and spiritual blessings for those who obey God.”*

This current age is characterized by rebellion.



Rebellion and disobedience come directly from man's sinful nature.

See: 2

Timothy 3:2

and Romans 5:19a. We see rebellion in the home, rebellion in society, rebellion in our churches – all stemming from a basic rebellious attitude toward God. Defiance, rebellion, brutal crimes, and atrocities are on the rise. TIME magazine published an article entitled *“Our Violent Kids”* with this stunning

Lesson Overview

- I. Obedience Defined
- II. God's Attitude Regarding Obedience
- III. God's Attitude Regarding Disobedience
- IV. The Source of True Obedience
- V. Promises and Blessings Relating to Obedience
- VI. The Right Attitude in Obedience
- VII. Areas of God-directed Obedience
- VIII. My Obedience

headline, *A rise in brutal crimes by the young shakes the soul of society!* As a nation we have become adept at producing delinquent, disobedient citizens. Now, as never before, we need to seriously concern ourselves with the subject of OBEDIENCE.

I. OBEDIENCE DEFINED

John A. Stomer gives the following explanation of obedience:

“Obedience is doing what those in authority request or want. It is the opposite of 'doing your own thing.' True obedience involves doing what an authority wants immediately, respectfully, joyfully, and completely.

Obedience requires the submission of the will of the individual to those in charge. True obedience ultimately stems from submission to God.”

II. GOD'S ATTITUDE REGARDING OBEDIENCE

A. *Look up: 1 Samuel 15:22*

What does God say is better than sacrifice?

To _ _ _ _

B. *Look up: Acts 13:22*

How did the Lord describe David, the son of Jesse?

“A M _ _ after M _ _ _ own H _ _ _ _.”

C. *Why did the Lord describe King David this way in Acts 13:22b?*

III. GOD'S ATTITUDE REGARDING DISOBEDIENCE

A. *Look up: 1 Samuel 15:23*

What does God say rebellion is like? The sin of
W_____

B. *Look up: Deuteronomy 21:18-21*

What was the penalty under the Mosaic Law for
hard-hearted, unrepentant rebellion in boys?

IV. THE SOURCE OF TRUE OBEDIENCE

A. *Look up: John 14:15*

“If ye L_____ me, K_____ my
commandments.”

B. *Look up: John 14:23a*

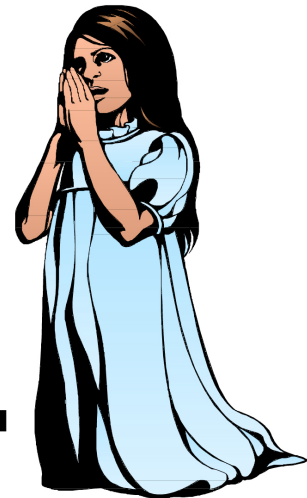
“If a man L_____ me, he will K_____ my
W_____.”

C. *Look up: 1 John 5:3b*

“His commandments are not
G_____.”

D. *Look up: 1 John 4:19*

“We love him, because he
F_____ L_____ us.”



V. PROMISES AND BLESSINGS RELATING TO OBEDIENCE

A. *Look up: 1 John 3:22*

What does God promise when we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight? _____

B. *According to John 15:10, where does an obedient Christian abide? _____*

C. *Look up: Matthew 6:31-33*

What three things does God promise to take care of for us when we put Him first?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

D. *According to John 15:14, what does obedience make us? _____*

E. *According to 1 John 2:5, what is perfected in our lives when we keep God's Word? _____*

F. *Look up: James 1:22*

If we hear the Word of God and yet do nothing about it, what is the result? _____
What does James 4:17 call this? _____

G. *According to Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus compares the life of an obedient person to what? _____
_____*

VI. THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IN OBEDIENCE

It is against human (sinful) nature to obey. Obedience comes as a result of training, and attitude is most important here.

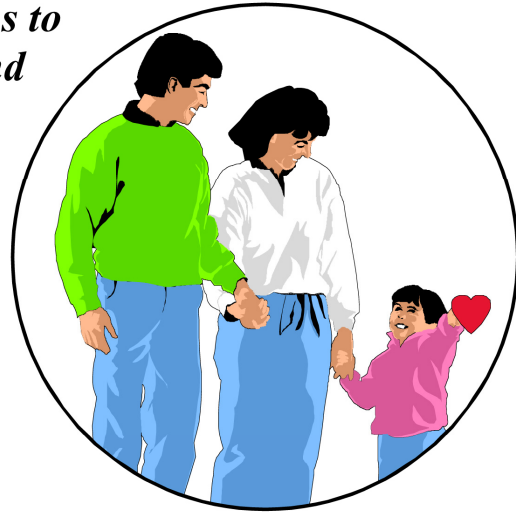
A. *Look up: Psalms 40:8*

Obedience ought to be a D_____.

B. *Obedience is to be with the whole H_____ and S_____ (Deuteronomy 26:16).*

C. *Obedience requires us to be S_____ and very C_____- _____ (Joshua 1:7).*

D. *When obeying the Lord, we need to make H_____ and not D_____- _____ (Psalms 119:60).*



Obedience is:

1. Doing what you are told.
2. Doing it when you are told.
3. Doing it with the right attitude.

E. *What should our attitude be when God's Word seems to contradict our own judgment (Luke 5:4-7)? _____*

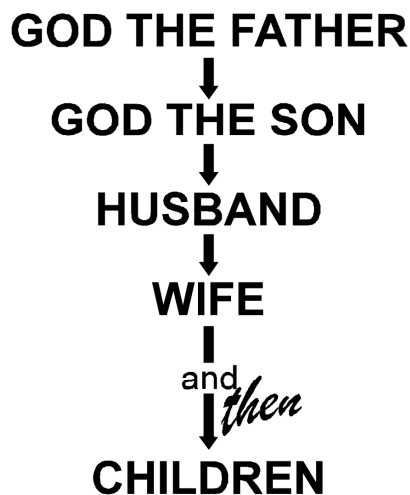
F. *According to Matthew 21:28-31, are good intentions alone sufficient for obedience? _____*

VII. AREAS OF GOD-DIRECTED OBEDIENCE

Every Christian should recognize “GOD'S CHAIN OF COMMAND.” What does this mean? – not every action required of us is commanded directly from the Lord; rather God has placed **others** over us in various segments of life, who will be used by Him to accomplish His perfect will in us. We are to submit to these authorities *as unto the Lord*.

An example of this “chain of command” in relation to marriage is given in 1 Corinthians 11:3 (see illustration on next page).

A man who truly loves God will bow in submission to Jesus Christ. A wife who truly loves God will never “run” her husband, but lovingly submit to his leadership as unto the Lord.



Note: This chain of authority with regards to the family has *nothing* to do with equality, value, or worth. It is a functional arrangement and is for the orderliness of society. Even Jesus Christ modeled submission.

A. *The Lord Jesus Christ Was An Obedient Son.*

1. He was obedient to God the Father's W____ (John 6:38,39).
2. He was not in any way unequal with the Father, declaring “*I and my Father are _____*” (John 10:30).
3. According to Philippians 2:5-8, Jesus was obedient unto D____.
4. As a child, Jesus submitted to His earthly mother and Joseph. See: Luke 2:51.

B. Five Areas Of Authority Requiring Christian Obedience

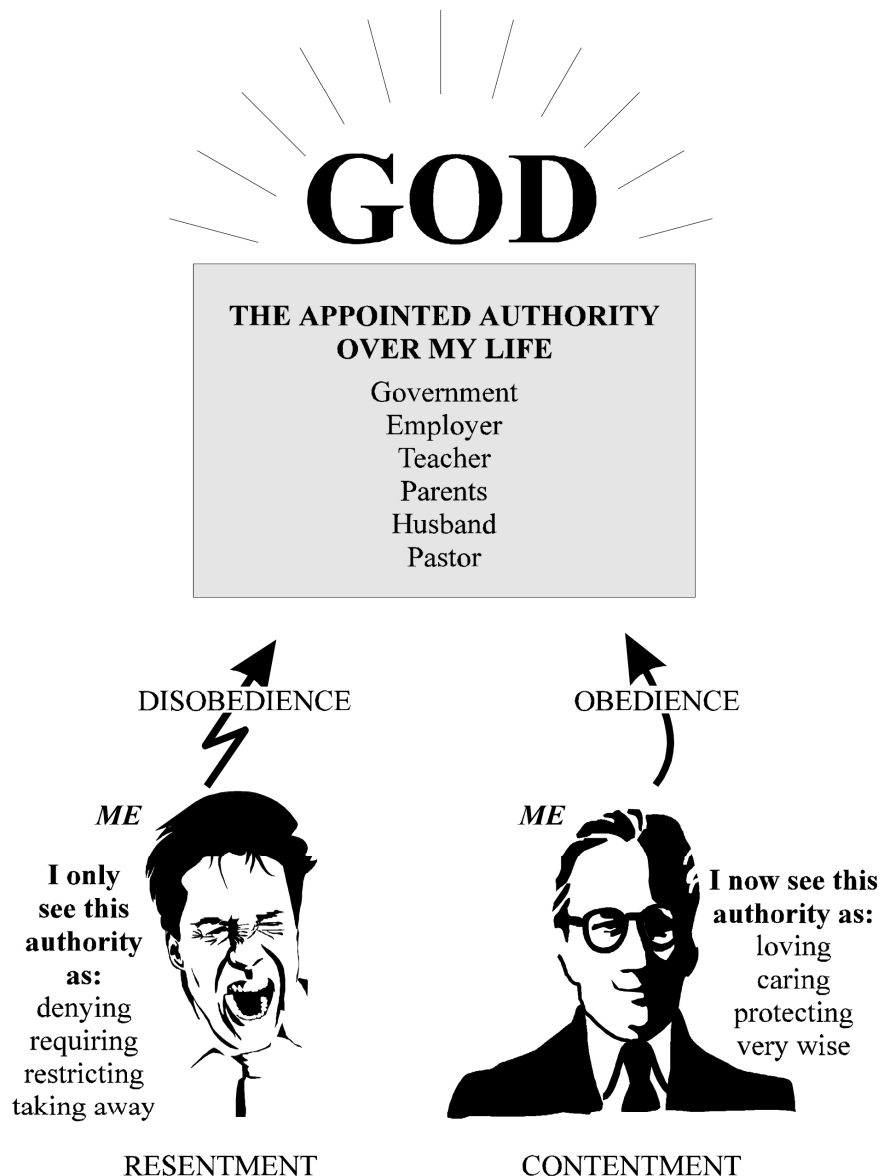
1. In marriage
The _____ is to submit to the _____ . Read: Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6.
2. In the home
C_____ are to obey their P_____. Read: Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20.
3. In the workplace
S_____ are to be obedient to their M_____. See: Ephesians 6:5-7; Colossians 3:22.
4. In society
Every citizen is to be S_____ to the higher powers. See: Romans 13:1-7
5. In our church
Each member is to S_____ to those that have the rule over them. See: Hebrews 13:7,17.

In each of these areas God expects you to obey those in authority just as you would (and with the same attitude) obey Him. Yet, it is in each of these areas we find rebellion today – husbands who won't follow God; wives who won't follow husbands; children who won't obey parents; militant unions; anarchists; and church members who resist spiritual leadership.

Don't allow rebellion to germinate in your heart. We already know God's opinion of it – it is "*as the sin of witchcraft.*"

If the one in authority is failing to give responsible leadership, God will deal with him. Leave these

things to God and don't attempt to rectify the situation by usurping the authority. That's wrong too! However, a leader can be led to the Lord by those in his charge. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7; in this passage the leader is the husband and the wife is told how she can win him to Christ. How? – not by taking over and running the home, but by the ornament of submission (that is, a meek and quiet *spirit*).



VIII. MY OBEDIENCE

Look up the three texts in the chart and jot down some principles regarding your responsibility to authority.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AUTHORITY IN MY LIFE	
<i>Romans</i> 13:1-7	
<i>Hebrews</i> 13:7-17	
<i>1 Peter</i> 2:11-17	

Obedience is a *heart* problem and not a *head* problem. Read these pertinent thoughts by Oswald Chambers in his devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*.

THE WAY TO KNOW

(John 7:17) “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine....”

The golden rule for understanding spiritually is not intellect, but obedience. If a man wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is his guide; but if he wants insight into what Jesus Christ teaches, he can only get it by obedience. If things are dark to me, then I may be sure there is something I will not do. Intellectual darkness comes through ignorance; spiritual darkness comes because of something I do not intend to obey.

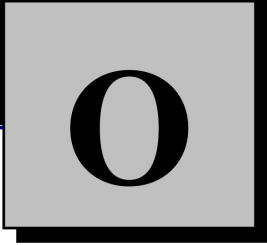
No man ever receives a word from God without instantly being put to the test over it. We disobey and then wonder why we don’t go on spiritually. “If when you come to the altar,” said Jesus, “there you remember your brother has ought against you . . . don’t say another word to Me, but first

go and put that thing right.” The teaching of Jesus hits us where we live. We cannot stand as humbugs before Him for one second. He educates us down to the scruple. The Spirit of God unearths the spirit of self-vindication; He makes us sensitive to things we never thought of before. When Jesus brings a thing home by His Word, don’t shirk it. If you do, you will become a religious humbug. Watch the things you shrug your shoulders over, and you will know why you do not go on spiritually. *First go* – at the risk of being thought fanatical you must obey what God tells you.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT:

- Read your P Lesson (**P**rayer) and answer all the questions.
- Continue reading through the New Testament *at your own pace*.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal* and be prepared to share highlights next week.
- Give out copies of *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week’s session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, **P** Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
_____/_____/_____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You