

OBEDIENCE

Prepare for Your Assignment

1. Download message #12, "Love and Obedience," from www.gty.org/fof.
2. Use your notebook to take notes on the message.
3. Work through the questions and tasks on the following pages.

Memorize 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.

■ We are called, I believe, to love the Lord Jesus Christ, to love Him with a whole soul, whole heart, whole mind, and whole strength kind of love. And we would say we do! But I look at our society; I look at the church, and I don't see that same kind of devotion, that same kind of commitment, that same kind of abandonment to the priorities that are the divine priorities. I see us defused into a myriad of options, giving equal weight or even greater weight to some of the passing things in favor of some of the eternal things.

John MacArthur

Obedience is the expected response of a Christian to his Lord. But obedience is more than following a set of rules. In this lesson, we will study what it means to be obedient, areas of obedience, and some results of obedience.

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 _____ keep My commandments _____."
2. What is expected of those who hear God's Word (James 1:22)? _____ to be doers of the Word _____

B. The Call to Follow Christ

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

_____ "who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in _____
 _____ His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in _____
 _____ return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept _____
 _____ entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously." _____

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)?

as a “living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God”

This is our spiritual act of worship.

II. Obedience Marks a True Believer

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

1. What does obeying the Word of God demonstrate?

that we have come to know Him

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

that we don't know God and the truth is not in us

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

Doing the will of the Father

“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)?

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

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

“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.”

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

He was rejected as king.

B. Consider Zechariah 7:8–14.

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

“They refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing.

They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.”

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

“so they called and I would not listen,” says the Lord of hosts.”

3. What was the result (verse 14)?

“[The Lord] scattered them with a storm wind among all the nations whom they have not known.

Thus the land is desolated behind them so that no one went back and forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate.”

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 He left his home for an unknown place.

b. Genesis 22:1–12 He was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac as God commanded him to.

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

- a. His descendants would be multiplied "as the stars of heaven."
- b. His descendants would be given "all these lands."
- c. Through his descendants all the nations would be blessed.

B. Christ's Example of Obedience

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

He wanted "to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."

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

"Yet not My will but Yours be done."

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

"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

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 We will abide in His love.

2. John 15:14 We will be His friends.

3. 1 John 3:22 We will receive what we ask of Him.

B. To what does Jesus compare the life of a person who hears and obeys His Word (Matthew

7:24-27)? to the wise man who built his house on the rock

VI. Areas of Obedience

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

to observe all He commanded us

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

1. Colossians 3:20

a. Who? children To whom? parents

b. Why? "This is pleasing to the Lord."

2. Ephesians 5:22-24

a. Who? wives To whom? their own husbands

b. Why? Because the husband is the head of the wife (as Christ is the head of the church)

(Note Ephesians 5:25-32.)

3. Ephesians 6:5–8

a. Who? slaves To whom? earthly masters

b. Why? Knowing that whatever good thing you do you will receive back from the Lord

4. Hebrews 13:17

a. Who? Christians To whom? leaders

b. Why? They watch over your souls and someday will give account for them.

5. Romans 13:1

a. Who? every person To whom? governing authorities

b. Why? Because God established governments and gave them authority

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

“Wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.”

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

“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.”

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)? faith

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

the one who obeyed

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

We should do what He says.

D. Read Ephesians 6:6.

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

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

“So you too, 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)?

(Answers will vary)

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

(Answers will vary)

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

(Answers will vary)
