

Obedience to God

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The work of Jesus Christ in a life does not stop with salvation, nor with knowledge of God's will; it culminates in obedience to God's will. Obedience is enshrined in the commandments and is at the heart of all Christian conduct. "Obedience is the initial virtue," writes Dr. George Hodges. "It is important like a great stone in the foundation: if such a stone gives way, the wall above begins to crack. All civic betterment, all progress of nations and of churches, all righteousness, depend upon it. It is to be pointed out in the lives of the saints and heroes, and enforced by precept upon precept, and made a matter of prayer. It begins with the just and certain laws of the home and proceeds to the Divine laws of heaven and earth. It teaches the lesson which all the Scriptures teach by admonition, and which life teaches by experience, sometimes too late, that goodness and happiness are bound up together. Not necessarily goodness and material happiness, but goodness and the true and substantial satisfaction of life. It illustrates the rewards and penalties of God.

"Children are to be instructed that they are to obey their parents not only because that is the desire of their parents but because it is the will of God. And they are to be shown how peace and order and efficiency and happiness depend upon it under all conditions, in families, in armies, and in nations. It is one of the universal principles upon which the whole universe of God is ordered. By the help of religion, by aid of the Bible and of the church, as

Columbus

Jesus was always obedient. you know of his visit to Jerusalem at 12 yrs of age. He went back to his home and was subject to his parents. He finally knew so much that his parents could not teach him more but then he did the will of God. while you were a child you obeyed them but after they passed away and you had a home of your own and had no parent to obey you could yet obey God. you will always need to do this.

Col. Henry Havelock Allen was one of the bravest men in the British army. After his death it was said that he knew how to obey. This story was told about him. when he was 8 yrs old his father carried him to London. He was left on London bridge where his father could attend to some business. His father got absorbed in his business transaction and did not think of his son till he sat down to supper with business friends 6 hrs after time he was to meet his son. He jumped in a taxi and went for him and found him still waiting because he had been told to wait.

Nature obey God. The heavenly bodies in obedience to the laws God has made for them go their courses day by day and year by year and across the sky. By this strict obedience there is

never a collision wherein one body loses its identity, and this is well because if one planet should be annihilated the whole universe would likely feel the effect.

- would that we children of God might be just as obedient. If we were then none of our lives would ever collide with another to destroy its identity. In other words if we would be just as true to God's love which He made for us as other creatures of His hands the human and spiritual realm would move on with out hitches.

Obedience must begin in the home. This cannot be said too much. A warden of a large prison was asked what he thought was the main cause of people coming to prison thinking he would pay intemperance. But he said, "I have studied the question for years and have come to the conclusion that it is disobedience to parents" when you snap your finger in parents faces when you are a child you will snap them at the law when you are grown up. If you break your parents heart strings when you are young ropes may perchance break your neck when you are grown.

Well when Cornwallis surrendered to Geo. Washington there was a banquet held a little later. At this banquet a distinguished French officer asked the mother of Gen. Geo. Washington how she managed to rear him to be such a great man. She replied "I taught George to obey."

we owe it to God to obey Him. when the Russo-Japanese terms of peace were decided upon the ^{representative} people were a little surprised at first and did not believe it but later said "The Emperor has said it and Japan will obey. The Emperor is all wise and Japan is satisfied. We have all wise ruler and should obey Him."

we should be prompted by love to obey. A machine obeys because it has to not because it loves me.

we are not so much pleased over our son obeying after we have whipped him to it, but when we see him obey because he loves us. They obey us in love when they rightly understand our motives.

We then as God's children should seek to know His will and to understand Him better so when we really understand our Father of love it will not be hard for us lovingly to be obedient.

Obedience then is a condition of Rel. Knowledge. "If any man shall do His will he shall know of the doctrine" and strange to say when by study and experience we realize God more we become eager to obey Him and we obey to the amazement of those who know Him not. People will say, "How can you go to S.S. every Sun. and to P.M. and P.M.?" It is because there has entered the human soul a knowledge of God which makes a genuine love for God and a burning desire to do something for Him.



How to Obey God. There was once a farmer who saw a party of horsemen out hunting over his farm. He had one field which he was very anxious that they should not ride over, as the young crop of wheat was just beginning to appear above the ground, and it would be injured by the tramping of the horses; so he sent a boy to shut the gate to the field, and told him on no account to allow anyone to pass through the gate. The boy followed instructions. One after another of the horsemen spoke to the lad, and when they saw that speaking was not of any use they threatened him, and when threatening was of no use they offered him money, if he would let them through the gate. But all was in vain. Presently one of the horsemen rode up and said in stern, commanding tones, "My boy, you do not know me. I am the Duke of Wellington, and I am not accustomed to be disobeyed, and I tell you to open that gate at once." The boy took off his cap and said, very respectfully, "I am sure the Duke of Wellington would be the last person in the world to wish me to disobey orders." The Duke was highly pleased with the reply of the boy and said, "I honor the man or boy who can be neither bribed nor frightened nor threatened into doing what is wrong. With an army of such soldiers I could conquer the world." Handing the boy a sovereign the Duke put spurs to his horse and galloped away, while the boy, in high glee, returned to the farmer, shouting as he went along the road, "Hoorah, hoorah, I have done what Napoleon could not do, I have turned back the Duke of Wellington."

Now Jesus wants his followers to obey him as that boy obeyed the farmer. He wants boys and girls and men and women who can neither be frightened nor threatened nor bribed into doing what is wrong, and methinks Jesus would also say, "With an army of such followers I would soon conquer the world."—J. M. Mitchell, in "The Secret of Perpetual Happiness."