



OBEDIENCE

Sunday September 19, 2010

Obedience is honoring God by honoring His Word.

Samuel and Saul
1 Samuel 15:1-31

Some important lessons we can glean from this passage:

As a leader you are responsible for the actions of your people. God give you the mission, and it becomes your responsibility before God to see that the mission is accomplished the way God desired it. God held Saul responsible for the actions of his people

Partial obedience is still disobedience. Saul obeyed, perhaps 90%, but God still considered it disobedience. Saul claimed to have obeyed God – but God still called it disobedience because it was partial obedience.

Disobedience for a good cause (even a “spiritual cause”) is still disobedience. Saul attempted to give a “spiritual twist” for his disobedience – we saved the best of the cattle to offer sacrifices to God. God still called it disobedience.

Focus on vs 22,23

Obedience is better than sacrifice – better than any kind of sacrificial offering I can make. God places higher value on obedience than any kind of spiritual sacrifice I can make (vs 22).

Disobedience is an act of rebellion (literally – *bitterness* toward God), and stubbornness (self-will, wanting to have my own way) (vs 23).

Disobedience is like witchcraft and idolatry. Disobedience is giving something other than God’s Word, greater power over my life. (vs 23)

Disobedience is rejecting the word of the Lord – what God has said (vs 23)

Disobedience is costly. Saul lost the anointing and the kingdom.

"Disobedience is the seed for tragedy" (Mike Murdoc)

Friends versus Servants

John 14:21-24 John 15:9,10,14,15

The true expression of love for God is obedience.
The true demonstration of faith in God is obedience.

There are varying realms of God’s love that we can experience. Obedience is key to experiencing greater realms, depths and heights of the love of God. If you keep my commandments you will continue in my love.



Even Jesus had to keep the Fathers' commandments to walk in the Father's love.

Jesus draws a distinction between two kinds of relationship that we can have toward Him – one of friend, another of servant.

You can obey God, as a friend or as a servant.

One is motivated out of friendship – a desire to keep that close relationship.
The other is motivated out of fear – He's my Master, I better do what He says.

As a friend you do not want to disappoint – concerned about consequences to His heart.
As a servant you do not want to anger – afraid of consequences to yourself.

A friend usually will go out of the way, go the second mile because of the friendship.
A servant usually looks to do the minimum, what's just enough and get away.

Obedience out of friendship leads you to greater love for Him, and greater access into His heart.
Obedience out of a servant-mindset leaves you as a servant, in the house, but still distant in relationship.

Key Question: Do you obey God as a friend or a servant?

What keeps us from total obedience

Reasoning

2 Corinthians 10:3-6, emphasis on vs 6.

The weapons God has given us helps us deal with the arguments, the reasonings, the thoughts, etc....leading to a place where our obedience can be fulfilled (made complete).

Emotion

You don't feel like.

We cannot pamper or give in to our feelings.

Matthew 5:29,30 There has to be a level of severity in dealing with things that lead us to disobedience.

Pleasing people and the Pressure of the situation

Saul's example – he wanted to please his people and was under the pressure of the situation.

Interesting to note that Saul was so much under the pressure to please people, that even after he acknowledged he had sinned, he wanted to look good in front of all the people.

Temptation

The enemy plays mind games with us. Satan appeals to our weaknesses and attempts to draw us into disobedience.

Do a quick review of the temptations of Jesus in Matthew 4.

Areas of Life Application

Personal areas

In Relationships – at home between husbands-wives, parents-children

In the workplace



True obedience to God enables you to receive correction without shifting the blame.

This was the big difference between Saul and David. Both of them made mistakes. God rejected Saul but forgave David. When Saul was corrected, he acknowledged he had sinned, but still claimed to have obeyed God and shifted the blame on the people. God considered this disobedience – in that his heart was not right. When David was corrected, he acknowledged his sin and took full responsibility for his actions. He did not blame anyone else.

Obedience includes honoring God's structure of authority. Without authority structures there is chaos.

The strength for obedience

Philippians 2:13

It is God who works in us

Hebrews 2:18

Jesus – our ultimate example

Hebrews 5:7-9

God is calling us to a place where we can demonstrate obedience in the “heat of things”. This is one way of us being perfected – brought to maturity.

ALTAR CALL



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>