

Obeying God

It is fair to say most of us probably like to do things the way we want to. However, in our lives as a citizen of a country we understand that there is an earthly higher authority, the law of the land. We might not like it but we know we must either obey the law of the land or suffer the consequence, it is our choice. Spiritually the concept of obedience is similar. We have a choice to obey God or not. Obedience to God will be rewarded eternally not obeying God will be punished eternally. The choice is ours to make but have we spent much time realizing how important it is to obey God? Hopefully this lesson will explore that topic. First an important note. The Old Testament is an important part of the Bible which we do need to understand but as we currently live under the New Testament Law, (or Law of Christ), and not the Old (or Law of Moses) we will mainly be focused on the New Testament in this lesson. However, should you choose to look into it the Old Testament does give us examples of God expecting obedience. The main purpose of this lesson is to examine that today under the New Testament Law of Christ we are expected to be obedient and not just do whatever we want.

Scriptures

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” God expected obedience in the Old Testament and rewarded those that sought to be pleasing to Him.

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Most people will choose to disobey God and will be eternally punished for that unfortunate choice. While God is not promising obeying His law is easy, He does promise to reward those that do.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” People that say that they are Christians but are not truly obedient to the Law of Christ do not fool God. Sadly, they will not be in Heaven. There is no way around it God rewards faithful Christians with a home in Heaven.

Matthew 22:37-39 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” God expects to be first in our lives and this should be something easily seen in our lives. People should be able to know you are a Christian because they see in your life that you are obedient to God.

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” This scripture shows us how important it is to be baptized. Jesus has commanded all

who believe in Him to be baptized. To not be baptized is to be disobedient. The disobedient will not be in Heaven.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” God has quite clearly promised to reward the faithful Christian and condemn those who are not. God will follow through on His promise, which reward do you want? Everlasting life or facing the wrath of God?

John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments” How simple to understand this verse is. If you truly love Jesus you will keep His commandments. So, we all understand this means if we do not keep His commandments, then it means we do not really love Him.

John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” We all have access to a Bible there for we all have Jesus’ commandments. If we are obedient, we show that we love Him. Jesus gave us the New Testament so we would have no doubt what is expected to be an obedient Christian. Will we obey Him?

Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men” Man’s law is an important part of our daily lives but how much more important should God’s law be? First and foremost, in our lives should be obedience to God.

Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” We can choose to obey Jesus and be righteous, or we can choose eternal death, there are no other options.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Don’t buy into the false doctrines of the world that God does not really care if we obey Him. He left us His Word for a reason. Jesus died on the cross for a reason. IF obedience was not a requirement of salvation what was the purpose of Christ’s death on the cross? IF obedience was not a requirement of salvation what was the purpose of giving mankind the Bible? If you truly ponder these thoughts, I believe you can see God requires obedience for salvation.

1 John 2:3 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments” An obedient Christian is the only kind of real Christian, all else unfortunately is false.

Conclusion

We have seen in this lesson that God does expect obedience. We do have free will so we can choose to disobey God and spend eternity in Hell or be an obedient Christian and spend eternity in Heaven. Friends there is no middle ground. Let us all choose wisely to be obedient to God.