

The Path to Discipleship Part 3 | 9/10/17

- To be a disciple of Jesus Christ one must strive for obedience.
 - As we move forward in our Christian lives to become a disciple, it is vital that we not only strive for, but are intentionally obedient.
 - We cannot expect to grow spiritually and live as God desires for us if we continuously do whatever it is that we want.
 - We cannot continuously disobey His teachings, His commandments and His calling on our lives and expect to grow.
 - Jesus has a plan and a purpose, but it requires our obedience.
 - We cannot become a true disciple without obedience.
 - A disciple is a follower of Christ, one who abides in Him.
 - John 8:31
 - “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,”
 - To abide in Him requires obedience.
- Our Relationship with our heavenly Father
 - Our relationship with God is like that of our earthly relationship between a parent and child.
 - Our earthly father/mother shows us love, compassion, comfort, direction and support.
 - These are the same traits that describe our heavenly Father and Christians get to enjoy these same benefits.
 - Our relationship with our heavenly Father also includes treating him as a father that has authority over us.
 - Children should seek to obey their earthly fathers, because he is in a position of authority.
 - It is the earthly father’s responsibility to guide, mold and correct the child and help them grow.
 - The child should respect and fall under his authority as he is a source of wisdom, council and protection.
 - He knows what is best for them.
 - **A Christian must obey the commands of God in the same way a child should obey their father**
 - God has given us rules and wise guidance on how to live our lives.
 - He has given us clear instructions on what is good and what is evil.
 - God knows what is best for us just like our earthly father.
 - But our heavenly Father is also our Lord
 - But even more so we must obey our heavenly father because his is our Lord.
 - Lord definition:
 - Master; ruler; owner, one having power and authority over others.
 - If Jesus is truly Lord of our lives then we WILL submit to Him.
 - Our salvation is not purely an intellectual decision or thought, it is a condition of the heart that we truly believe in WHO He is and He is our Lord.
 - **When Christians truly see Christ as Lord it will bring about obedience.**
 - **Do you think it is important to see Christ as one of authority over you?**
 - **If you see Him as one with authority, does this effect weather or not you strive to obey Him?**
 - **How would you describe what it means to truly see Christ as the Lord of your life?**

- As Christians, we must be careful we do not only look to God for his “comfort” and then neglect his commands or lordship.
 - At times Christians seek Jesus for His comfort, yet we do not want to obey His commands.
 - All Christians know that Jesus can and will provide comfort to us in our time of need.
 - But if we are not careful we can find that we go to God when we need Him, yet when things are “OK” we do things our way.
 - **To be a disciple of Christ is not to treat him like a buffet where you pick and choose only what you want, we are to be submissive and obey.**
- Jesus said that if we love Him then we WILL be obedient.
 - Not only is our obedience required to grow and be His disciple, but it proves our love for Him.
 - John 14:15
 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
 - John 14:21
 - “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”
 - John 14:23
 - “Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”
 - **Our love for Jesus Christ is shown when we obey His teachings, commandments and calling on our lives.**
 - **Why do you think it is that love is demonstrated with obedience?**
- Christians are called to a new life in obedience to God
 - We go through a transformation when we become a Christian. We get rid of our old selves and put on a new self that is in Christ.
 - Ephesians 4:22-24
 - “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after **the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**”
 - **The old former way of life was one of disobedience.**
 - **To live out the new self by walking in righteousness requires our obedience to God.**
 - There is a change in the life of one who has Christ, they desire to put aside their life of disobedience and begin to follow Christ and live as He desires.
 - 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct.** Since it is written, You shall **be holy, for I am holy**”
 - To put aside our former ignorance is part of the ongoing process of sanctification and spiritual maturity.
 - **A new life in Christ must be one that strives for obedience if we want to be a disciple.**
 - **We are called to live a holy life**
 - **Holy:**
 - **“Exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness”**

- “having a divine quality”
 - “devoted entirely to the deity or the work of the deity”
- **Both of these passages call us to be “holy”. How is this a trait of an obedient disciple?**
- **How can one put off your “old self” and to put aside the passions of your former ignorance? What does this look like?**
- **In what ways does our obedience to live out the changed life have an effect on others?**
- This new self of obedience is evidence of our Salvation
 - Scripture tells us that by our obedience through keeping His commands is how we know that we are a Christian.
 - 1 John 2:3-5
 - “And by this we know that we have come to know him, **if we keep his commandments**. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, **but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him.”
 - Obedience shows God that we truly take His truths to heart, it is proof that we believe in who He is.
 - **Why do you think that our obedience to keeping God’s commandments is proof of our salvation?**
 - **This passage also tells us that by our obedience the love of God is perfected in us.**
 - Our path of becoming spiritually mature and being a disciple is rooted in our obedience.
 - That by our continued obedience the love of God is perfected.
 - **What do you think this means to “have the love of God perfected” in us?**
- If we truly abide in Him then we will walk in the way in which He walked.
 - A disciple is a FOLLOWER, therefore the best way to do this is to imitate Him.
 - 2 John 2:6
 - “whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”
 - Ephesians 5:1
 - “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
 - Christ has called us to imitate Him, to live as he did.
 - **A Christian should strive to live the same life which will be different than their old one.**
 - A life of obedience leads us to be imitators of Him.
 - **What does living a life that imitates Christ look like practically?**
- **The changed life that leads to discipleship is seen in one who strives to do God’s will and not their own.**
 - We all have our own agenda, our own plans for our lives.
 - But Christ also has a plan for us, and it is a holy and righteous plan.
 - **When we have a changed life and we are seeking to becoming a disciple we must put aside our will and instead through obedience do as He desires.**
 - This is the example that Christ gave for us.
 - John 6:38
 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.”
 - Christ sought the will of the father with obedience and so should the Christian.

- For Saul God rejected him as king because of his disobedience, let us strive as Christians to not do the same.
- **“To obey is better than sacrifice” what might this look like in our lives today?**