



PART 4: THE THREE RS OF OBEDIENCE

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 28:16-17, 1 John 2:3-6

Introduction:

v. 20 "...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Jesus emphasizes learning to obey over merely learning his commandments.

1. Obedience is About More Than Reading

1 John 2:3-6 "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands."

"All true knowledge of God is born out of obedience" ~John Calvin

James 1:22-25 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says..."

"We often pray in the place of risky obedience" ~Bill Johnson

1 John 2:3-6 "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands."

2. Obedience is About More Than Right-ing

Our motivation for obedience is not duty, but love.

www.betheltab.ca

1 John 2:5 "But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them"

2 John 1:6 "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."

3. Obedience is About More Than Arithmetic

Obedience that is connected to an "IF" is not really obedience; it's commerce.

"Do not be deceived, Wormwood, our cause is never in greater danger than when a human being, no longer desiring, but still intending to do our enemy's will, looks out on a world from which every trace of him has vanished, asks why he has been forsaken, but still obeys." ~Uncle Screwtape, *The Screwtape Letters*

Today's fruit is a result of yesterday's obedience.

1 John 2:6 "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

Conclusion:

Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock..."

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: What was/is your favourite/least favourite subject in school? What made it so enjoyable/challenging?
2. How would you define the word “hypocrite”? What makes it so difficult to transform teaching into obedience? Is it an issue of Church culture? Church structure? Church leadership? Or is it just a part of the human condition? What’s the responsibility of the individual?
3. Read James 1:22-25. What is this passage saying?
 - How does the metaphor of the mirror relate to looking into God’s word?
 - What makes applying the word harder than fixing our appearance in the mirror?
 - What is meant by the phrase “the perfect law that gives freedom”?
4. If the same behaviours are possible regardless of the motivation, why does our motivation matter? How do we assess our motivations?
5. Analyze and discuss Tim Keller’s statement: “Religion says ‘I obey therefore I am accepted by God. The Gospel says ‘I am accepted by God through Christ therefore I obey.’”
6. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is this parable talking about?
 - This passage is the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, which means Jesus is telling us to put into practice everything recorded in Matthew 5-7. What is the promise we receive if we obey?
- What is one area of obedience you need to grow in? How can your Life Group help?
7. Pray together:
 - a) Pray for strength to be obedient, and for an understanding of God’s grace.
 - b) Other requests:
 -
 -
 -