

DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE?

Text: Matthew 7:21

INTRO: Amid the many false ideas in the world today is the view that God is not strict in His demands & that we are free to pick & choose among His commandments as we see fit. We live in an age when disobedience and disrespect for authority is seen in the home, in the school, in society in general—and in the realm of religion.

And so we ask, does God really require obedience?

- I. THE BIBLE IS CLEAR ON THE MATTER.
 - A. Only the obedient will enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - B. People are blessed when they **do** the will of God.

James 1:25, But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
 - C. It is obedience to the word that purifies the soul.

1 Pet. 1:22
 - D. The person who hears the teachings of Jesus & **does** them is wise, Matt. 7:24-27.
 - E. Jesus is the author of salvation to those who obey Him.

Heb. 5:9
 - F. Those who obey will be blessed by having a right to the tree of life, Rev. 22:14.
 - G. The disobedient will be punished with everlasting destruction, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- II. LET US NOTE SOME WAYS OF DISOBEYING GOD.
 - A. By doing what He says **not** to do.

Rom 12:14-20, Bless those who persecute you; bless & **do not curse**. Rejoice with those who rejoice, & weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. **Do not** set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. **Do not** be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for

good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, **do not** avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

B. By failing to do the things He commands.
Matt. 25:41ff; James 4:17

C. We may sin by substituting our own ideas for His revealed will. Naaman, 2 Kings 5; sons of Aaron, Lev 10; Jeroboam, 1 Kings 12.

NOTE modern examples: sprinkling for baptism, prayer for obedience, etc.

III. THINGS INCLUDED IN OBEDIENCE.

A. Studying His word for the purpose of understanding it, JN 5:39; Acts 17:11; Eph. 5:17

B. Being baptized into Christ for remission of sins. Acts 2:38; MK 16:15-16; JN 3:5 (except a man be born of water

C. It includes assembling regularly with other Christians to commemorate the Lord's death, to encourage other saints & to be encouraged by them. Acts 20:7; Heb 10:25; 1 Cor 16:2.

D. It includes putting God's will ahead of our own, ahead of friends, family, etc. Matt 10:37-38; Matt 6:33

E. It includes remaining faithful & obedient "in season & out of season" 2 Tim. 4:2; Rev 2:10

CONCLUSION: Though God is gracious & merciful, He will not tolerate continual, willful disobedience. Are you seeking to put His will above your own & to live within His revealed will on a daily basis? If not, now is the time to begin.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, March 1, 1964
Cox Springs, TX, March 5, 1964
Jonestown, TX, August 16, 1968
La Porte, TX, July 6, 1980
Exton, PA, February 11, 1990
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 22, 2004