

Obedience Is Love

Foundational Text: John 14:21

Trinity Baptist Church

Wednesday Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Presenter: Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr.

Obedience Is Love

“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.” **John 14:21 KJV**

“He who knows my commands and obeys them is the one who loves me. And my Father will love him who loves me. I will love him and will show myself to him.””

John 14:21 ICB

The contextual surroundings of our
Foundational text (John 14:21) is called
Christ's Consolatory Discourse.

Hear the word of God from **John 14:18-24 KJV**

John 14:18-24 KJV

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

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.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

*24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. **John 14:18-24 KJV***

Obedience to God's commands comes from your heart. When you begin struggling to obey God, that is a clear indication that your heart has shifted away from Him.

Some claim, "I love God, but I'm having difficulty obeying Him in certain areas of my life."

That is a spiritual impossibility.

If I asked you, “*Do you love God?*” you might easily respond, “*Yes.*”

However, if I asked you, “*Are you obeying God?*” would you answer yes as quickly?

Yet I would be asking you the same question!

Genuine love for God leads to wholehearted obedience.

If you told your spouse that you loved her or him at certain times, but that you struggled to love her or him at others, your relationship would be in jeopardy.

Yet, we assume God is satisfied with occasional love or partial obedience.

God Is Not Satisfied

Obedience without love is legalism*.

Obedience for its own sake can be nothing more than perfectionism, which leads to pride.

Many conscientious Christians seek to cultivate discipline in their lives to be more obedient to Christ.

As helpful as spiritual disciplines can be, they can never replace your love for God.

Love is the discipline!

*(theology)

dependence on moral law rather than on personal religious faith.

"stress obedience apart from faith and you produce legalism"

God looks...

- *beyond our Godly habits,*
- *beyond our moral lifestyle,*
- *beyond our church involvement*

and focuses His penetrating gaze on our hearts.

- Has your worship become empty and routine?
- Have you lost your motivation to read God's Word?
- Has your prayer life been reduced to a ritual?

These are symptoms of a heart that's shifted away from God.

You can not be close to God without being affected by His love. Love is the greatest motivation for a relationship with God and for serving Him.

The Heavenly Father loved His Son with an eternal love. Everything in the Father's heart and life was released to His Son.

As the Father expressed His love for a broken and sinful world, this passion was manifested through the life of His Son.

The Father initiated His plan to save humankind, and from a heart of devotion, the Son accepted the assignment that took Him to the cross.

As Jesus walked among people, the Father's love filled His Son. Jesus ordinary love could motivate Him to go to the cross.

No human love could keep Him perfectly obedient to His Father throughout His life. Only His Father's love was powerful enough to compel Him to commit His life to the saving purpose of His Father.

Jesus prayed that God would place this same love in His disciples.

Hear John 17:26

“I showed them what you are like. And again I will show them what you are like. Then they will have the same love that you have for me. And I will live in them.”” **John 17:26 ICB**

He knew no other motivation would be sufficient for the assignments God had for them. God's answer was to place His Son in them.

It is impossible for a Christian to be filled with this measure of love and not to be on mission with God.

You *Will* be incapable of ministering to everyone God sends to you **unless** you have His love.

You can't forgive others, go the extra mile with others, or sacrifice for others unless you have first been filled with the boundless love of God.

Seek to know the Father and His immeasurable love,
then allow His Son to love others through you.

Serious Questions For Serious Disciples

- a. What does your current obedience reveal about your love for and relationship with God?
- b. How does God's love for you affect your thoughts, decisions, and behavior?
- c. How does your love for God influence your thoughts, decisions and behavior?

Close Out

1. What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?
2. Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.
3. What does God want you to do in response to today's study?