

Chapter 22 - Pages 297-310
Principles on the Product of Disobedience
Lecture Notes & Answers to Questions

When we think it is difficult to obey God's word, we can easily fall victim to rationalizations to make obedience either easier or even optional. However, disobedience only produces confusion and breaks down our relationship with God.

Rule 15 - Although there is no distinction between sins, there is a difference in [immediate / temporal] consequences. (pp. 298-300)

Sin is sin, and all sin makes us guilty before God and liable for eternal separation from Him

Examples: Matthew 5:21-48 - Murder/hatred. Adultery/lust, oaths, vengeance, etc..

James 2:10 - Stumbling in just one point makes you guilty of all

Broken plate glass window illustration - it is broke whether there is one hole or lots of them

There is a clear distinction between how God views sin and its ultimate consequence and the temporal consequences of various sins while on this earth.

Rule 16 - Disobedience adds to confusion when adverse circumstances come, pages 300-302

It is natural for people to ask "why" when difficult circumstances are encountered

Trouble comes upon all people for the earth is cursed - Genesis 3:17; Ecclesiastes, etc. Christians may even have more trials than others - 1 Peter 4:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:10-12, John 16:33

Trials could also be part of God's chastening - Hebrews 12:5-11

Punishment is given to achieve justice; chastisement is given to correct behavior

We also "reap what we sow" - Galatians 6:7 (there are natural consequences to actions)

Disobedience confuses the issues: Is the current calamity part of living on this sin filled world? The natural consequences of our own actions? Or God's chastening?

Example: Genesis 42:21 - Joseph's brothers were confused as to the cause of their calamity - which was actually Joseph testing them to see if they had changed. Genesis 50:20 - God's hand.

Rule 17-God's permissive will is entered only through a failure to apply the Scriptures 302-304

Psalms 106:13-15 cf, Numbers 11:31-34. God's permissive will allowed them to get what they wanted, but it was not a blessing. (See also Romans 1:24, 26, 28 - God gave them over).

The example of Balak & Balaam (Numbers 22-24). Balaam did not curse Israel, but he did advise Balak how to bring about God's curse on them (2 Pet. 2:15-16; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14). Balaam was evil at heart and paid the price for his sin (Numbers 31:8,16).

People enter God's permissive will through flagrant disobedience. God wants our emphasis to be on living for Him (2 Timothy 1:7), not figuring out what we can get away with.

Rule 18 - We must refuse to yield to what we know is wrong. Satisfying the drive will only momentarily alleviate the hunger and will stimulate a desire for more - pages 304-306

Gal. 5:24; Romans 13:14 Crucify the passions & desires of the flesh. Don't seek to satisfy it.

Romans 7:12-13 - Sin perverts what is good

God has a proper place for the fulfillment of all “natural” or normal desires - seeking fulfillment of those desires outside of God’s provision is sin.

1 Corinthians 6:13-20 Sexual desires - God provides for this in marriage

Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4 food - God provides for us - Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 13:25

Proverbs 27:20; Ecclesiastes 1:8 - The eyes / ears of man are never satisfied

Ecclesiastes 5:10 - Money and abundance will not satisfy - This too is vanity.

Our commitment must be to God’s perfect will, not the fulfillment of our own self-gratification

Feeding the hunger stimulates the desire for more, but abstinence causes the drive to atrophy

Rule 19 - Culture cannot serve as an excuse for not obeying God’s commands - pages 306-308

While truth is not relative, our ability to see truth is hindered by our cultural world-view

*Convictions & practice are to be based on the Bible. Adherence to cultural prohibitions that are not specifically Biblical results in legalism.

*Biblical commands that are ignored due to cultural considerations

Example - 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 law suits between believers

Example - Scriptural prohibitions against fornication - which are increasingly ignored

We must resist the conforming pressure of culture to practice or refrain - Romans 12:1-2

The problem is the culture of our own day. God’s word transcends time and culture

Rule 20 - The difference between a trial and a temptation lies in the response - pages 308-310

Πεῖρα, πειράω, πειράζω / peira, peirao, peiradzo word group: tried / tested / tempted

Hebrews 11:17, James 1:2-4 - God tests faith through trials

James 1:12-14 - God does not tempt - that arises from lusts. It is internal.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - God provides for trials / temptations to be overcome

James 1: 3,12; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:12 - δοκίμιον, δοκιμάζω / dokimion / dokimadzo word group: an object that is tested to prove its genuine value: certified: tested & proved.

Examples:

Job 1 & 2 - God allowed Job to be tested / tried by Satan

Matthew 4:1 - God allowed Jesus to be tested / tried by Satan - Jesus overcame

1 Peter 1:7 - a tested faith results in praise, glory & honor at the revelation of Christ

Principles on the Product of Disobedience

Rule 15 - Although there is no distinction between sins, there is a difference in [immediate / temporal] consequences. (pp. 298-300)

List some Scripture passages that have sins which usually have immediate consequences

1 Corinthians 6:18 - sexual sins - both physical diseases - and emotional problems - Prov. 6:27
Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13 - Murder - even if not caught quickly, having to hide it is a
consequences.

List some Scripture passages in which sin usually has delayed consequences

Sins of the heart - hatred (1 John 2:9), envy (Galatians 7:17), coveting (Romans 7:7-8),
jealousy (1 Corinthians 13:4), unloving (Romans 1:31) etc. - it usually takes some time for
sins of the heart to be manifested in the actions which result in temporal consequences -
though the condemnation of God upon them already exists.

Give some examples in which people were surprised by the sudden consequences of their sin.

Numbers 11:33 - plague upon people for complaining.

Numbers 12:10 - Miriam's leprousy

Acts 5 - Deaths of Ananias and Sapphira for lying - fear come over the whole church - vs. 11

Rule 16 - Disobedience adds to confusion when adverse circumstances come

Give examples of people who have suffered for each of the following reasons:

Living in a fallen / sin cursed world: Mephibosheth - 2 Samuel 4; Man born blind - John 9

Chastened by God: Miriam - Numbers 12; Corinthian believers - 1 Cor. 11:30-31

Punished by God: Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 4; Herod - Acts 12:21-23

Natural consequences of their own behavior: Children of Israel beaten by Amalekites -
Numbers 14:39-45; Eutychus - Acts 20:9

Persecuted for the sake of righteousness: Jesus, apostles, all who strive to live godly in Christ

Tested by God: Job; The church at Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11

Rule 17 - God's permissive will is entered only through a failure to apply the Scriptures

Have there been times in your life or that of someone close to you in which God yielded you / them to His permissive will. If so, what did you learn from it?

God's perfect will (which is discerned by applying His commands and their moral and wisdom
implications to all situations) is better than getting what I want under his permissive will.
Personal example: I wanted a 1966 Mustang because of the "prestige" it would give me as a
young, male owner - and what I got was an old car that needed a lot of maintenance. I could have
purchased some other car that would have been more practical, less labor intensive, and less time
consuming to "cherry it out" - The Dodge Dart I later purchased for work was much more
practical and economical - but I had to learn the lesson first. Example 2: In doing a lot of
marriage counseling and by observation I have seen many men marry a woman because she was

physically attractive and ignore the more important qualities described in Proverbs 31 - and they have suffered for it throughout their married lives.

Rule 18 - We must refuse to yield to what we know is wrong. Satisfying the drive will only momentarily alleviate the hunger and will stimulate a desire for more

What are some things which are blessings when experienced within God's will but are sinful when experienced outside / beyond His commandments

Blessing: Food (Psalm 136:25-26) Sinful: Gluttony - Deut. 21:20; Prov. 23:20, etc.

Blessing: Sexual intimacy in marriage - Song of Solomon, Proverbs 5:15-19

Sinful: sexual intimacy outside of marriage: fornication, adultery - Prov. 2:16-19; 5:1-14; 6:24-35; 7:1-27; 23:26-28; 30:20; Matthew 15:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9

Blessing: Prosperity - Joshua 1:8; Prov. 13:21 Sinful: Materialism - Prov. 11:28; 1 Tim. 6:17

How do you stop a bad habit?

A. Repent: Recognize and admit the habit is bad

B. Remove: Stop practicing the habit

C. Replace: Start practicing a new good habit to replace the old one

(D. Rely: It helps to let others know so that you can be encouraged and held accountable)

Rule 19 - Culture cannot serve as an excuse for not obeying God's commands

How have you seen your culture skew your understanding of truth?

The culture of the Baptist churches I grew up in skewed my understanding of the Bible. I was taught to believe what was right and wrong by the examples of those around me. The pressure can still be strong to go along with what other pastor's in our association practice instead of examining the Scriptures themselves.

What are some Biblically acceptable practices your culture seeks to prohibit?

Pursuit of / advocacy of righteousness in public,

What are some Biblically prohibited practices your culture promotes?

American culture: Lying, pride, materialism, sexual perversion, debauchery, selfishness, laziness, victimization excuses, racism, irresponsibility.

Rule 20 - The difference between a trial and a temptation lies in the response

How have you seen God use trials in your life to test your faith and make you more mature?

Depending on the Lord to provide for the needs of my family according to Matthew 6:33

Making a firm stand on Biblical righteousness and remaining humble to let the Lord deal with the negative consequences from immature / evil people

How can temptations be overcome?

A. Submit to God. B. Look for the way of escape - 1 Cor. 10:13