

*Theology: pp. 136, 588,589, 643, 652;
cf. 600.*

I. Introduction

- A. Review
- B. What Does It Mean To Obey?-v.21
- C. How Do We Obey?-selected Scriptures

II. V.21 “The one having the commandments of mine and keeping them, that one is the one loving Me; But the one loving Me he will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and I will manifest Myself to Him.”

- A. The disciples, soon to be apostles, would need to know a true disciple when they see one.
 - 1. Jesus uses a generic reference here to “the one...”
 - 2. He does not speak to them about themselves, although it certainly fit.
 - 3. He does not speak to them about sometime in the future, although it fit.
 - 4. He speaks to them about characteristic, general behavior.
- B. They would need to know this.
 - 1. After all, isn't the commandment of Jesus Christ to Peter, and the rest, “feed My sheep”? (John 21:15-17).
 - 2. How else would they know who to shepherd?
 - a) For example:
 - (1) Judas - a false sheep who had every opportunity to obey Jesus Christ, but eventually betrayed Him, showing his true colors.
 - (2) Simon the Magician-Acts 8:9-24 = a false disciple who attached himself to Phillip.
 - (3) The co-workers with Paul - 2 Timothy 1:15-16; cf. 2 Timothy 4:10-17 = the workers who were with Paul eventually left him, showing they were not true sheep. He could no longer care for them.
 - (4) The lazy of Thessalonica - 2 Thessalonians 3:5-15 = the lazy brethren were removed from the shepherd care of the leadership of the church, as well as the church fellowship.
 - (5) The immoral brother - 1 Corinthians 5:11 = the brother who insists upon conducting himself in immorality and other indulgences.
 - (6) The dissenter = Romans 16:17 = the so-called brother who dissents and tries to take others with him is to be shunned by the church and thus no shepherding.
 - (7) The factious men = Titus 3:10 = a man who wants to break the church apart is to be shunned as well.
 - (8) The false leaders - 1 Timothy 1:6-7, 19 = the men who are in leadership who are teaching error are to be confronted, publicly rebuked (1 Timothy 5:17-21), then removed from leadership.

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2 John 10–11

¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; ¹¹ for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

3. When a person conducts him/herself in a manner other than the commandments of Jesus Christ, that person is admonished, taught, confronted, encouraged, depending upon their behavior.
 4. If that person does not repent, they are then removed from the care and oversight of the church body, specifically the church leadership.
 - a) What you see in the NT is that the shepherding and care for the church is only for the blameless, the upright, the sheep.
 - b) A tare, a wolf, or a goat has not part in the care of the leadership neither should the church expect the leadership of the church to contribute time to that person.
 - c) They are to be shunned, rejected, and cast out of the church.
- C. So, how will then apostles know men like this?
1. What is it that will lead them to understand and make these connections?
 - a) Simple - watch their obedience; watch their reaction to the Word of Christ.
 - b) To those striving to obey, struggling to submit, working hard to do what the Word says, their whole life long, to them belong all the time and resources of the church leadership/shepherds.
 2. To the disobedient, the wayward, the antagonist, belong rebuke and no shepherding.
 3. They don't love Jesus Christ.
 4. Let's look into this further.
- D. "...The one having the commandments of mine..." = the professing believer.
1. This is a title, so to speak, of a believer.
 2. The outsider does not "have" the commandments of Jesus Christ.
 - a) This is a present participle = the one already and continually having.
 - b) This is a statement concerning the one who is entrusted with the teaching of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) In the future sense, this encrusting is in a "church" setting being taught by elders.
 - (2) The one having the commandments of Christ = a Christian.

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- c) The world does not have the commandments.
 - (1) Remember, Jesus Christ, more than anything else, was a preacher/teacher.
 - (2) Those who followed Him heard and learned His teaching and they were the ones “having the commandments.”
 - (3) Therefore, anyone who sits under, listens to, the commandments of Jesus Christ, i.e. His Word, they are those who “have His commandments.”
- E. “...And keeping them...”
 - 1. However, simply having the commandments does not make one a Christian in the eyes of God.¹
 - 2. The one “keeping” the commandments is truly His child.
 - a) “Keep” = to observe, keep, watch, guard.

Matthew 19:17

¹⁷ And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only One* who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

Matthew 23:2–3

² saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*.”

Acts 12:5

⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

¹ James 2:18–19

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

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- b) So, Jesus is saying that the one who knows Him is the one who 1) listens to His Word, 2) does His Word (thereby guarding it for the future).

John 8:31

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him,
"If you continue in My word, *then you are truly disciples of Mine;*

(1) ILLUSTRATION:

(a) James 2:14-26

(b) James, the brother of the Lord, said the same thing.

(c) Those who obey the instructions, not just listen to them, they are those who are justified.

3. But, notice what Jesus says about them:

F. "the one loving Me."

1. Now, this is interesting.

2. In the upper room, this designation is important.

a) In the context of the age of the disciples, the only reason a person would stay with Christ is because of love.

b) That is, Peter and the rest would only commit themselves to, and remain loyal to, Jesus Christ and His Word.

3. That is love.

4. The one who abandons Jesus Christ for another, or for no god at all, that one has reneged on their loyalty to Him and does not love Him.

a) In other words, the person who loves = the person who is loyal.

(1) A man or woman who remains loyal to Jesus Christ is a lover of Jesus Christ.

(2) And, how would you know one who loves Him?

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(3) Those who are loyal to His Word.

b) And, how is loyalty measured?

5. Obedience.

a) The apostles were all ones who were loyal to Jesus Christ, all of His teaching, by their regular obedience to His Word.

(1) Even the most difficult Words of Christ were followed:

(a) Acts 9-10 = Peter and fraternizing with a Gentile.

(b) Acts 9 = Ananias and going to see the new believer, Saul/Paul.

(c) Acts 13-26 = Paul and his ongoing persecutions, imprisonments, and hardships simply to obey the command of Christ to preach to the Gentiles.

(2) All these men, and many, many others indicate that they loved Jesus Christ.

b) They were faithful to His Word to the end.

G. "...The one loving Me will be loved by My Father..."

1. Why is this here?

2. What does it mean?

3. Doesn't the Father love us already?

John 16:26–27

²⁶ In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

a) I think this is a level of comfort that the disciples would need.

b) They would need to know that the Father loves them.

4. Why?

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- a) Because of the change that is about to happen in their lives as Jesus leaves.
 - b) These men are about to embark on the same ministry as Jesus Christ.
 - c) Therefore, they would need to same comfort and assurance that Jesus had.
 - (1) John 8:28–29

 - (2) The comfort of the love of the Father is tremendous in the middle of ministry.
 - (a) To know that the Father loves you, because you do what is pleasing to Him, and He is near to you is a magnificent thought/truth.
 - i) Do you want that comfort as you minister?
 - ii) Do what pleases Him.
 - iii) He will be near you.
 - iv) Do you have no sense of the nearness of the Father?
 - (b) Check your life and see where you are not pleasing to Him.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
5. Think about this statement.
- a) The one loving Me (i.e. The one who possesses My Word and obeys it) will be loved by My Father (He will be loyal to him).
 - b) In other words, it is the person who is blameless in their obedience who can have the comfort of the Father's love.
6. This is not the love that is indiscriminate.
- a) This is a love that requires holiness, purity, and obedience.
 - b) To involve yourself with the impure, edgy, and dark sides of life, even in the church, is to shun this love of the Father.

(1) Illustration:

(a) 2 Timothy 2:14-21

- i) There are those who “wrangle” about words.
 - (1) They dispute about dogmatism and terms and thoughts, i.e. Philosophies.
 - (2) However, when a person is like this, they lead others to ruin.
- ii) What needs to happen is a proper work in the Word of Truth (v. 15).
 - (1) Hymenaeus and Philetus both are of those who chatter needlessly and in about worldly things.

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- (2) Notice Paul's teaching in vv. 19-21= in a large house, and the church is the largest of all households, there are all kinds of vessels.
 - (3) Some = honor = usefulness.
 - (4) Some = dishonor = uselessness.
 - (5) V. 21 = the honorable vessels need to cleanse themselves from the dishonorable ones, like Hymenaeus and Philetus.
- (b) Again, stay away from deep relationship with those who are not willing to love Jesus Christ completely.
- i) Stay away from those who are chatterboxes about nothing.
 - ii) Stay away from those who have proven to dissuade God's people from commitment to the Words of Christ.
- (2) These kinds of people will grow from bad to worse and will enter households in order to pick off women who are already weighed down with their guilt of sins (3:6-7).
- (3) They are defiled, disobedient and useless for anything good.

Titus 1:16

¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

7. So, the reality is, people who refuse to obey Jesus Christ, although the externally hold to Jesus' words, are simply deluded and are not loved by the Father.

H. Their lives of darkness, hidden sins, consistent disobedience and love for the things of the world, making them talk a lot, chattering about all things religious, but are completely blind to the truth (although they love to learn but they just never come to the knowledge of the truth) demonstrate that they simply do not love Jesus Christ, but themselves.

Philippians 3:17-19

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is *their*

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appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

- (1) The church is filled with people whose god is their belly and who love to indulge in them while you starve:

Jude 10–13

¹⁰ But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. ¹² These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

III. How to Obey: