

LOVING GOD BY OBEYING GOD

I. THE PARTS OF YOUR LIFE ARE CONNECTED ONE TO ANOTHER - 1 John 5:2

Your love for God, and for people, and your obedience – it's all connected.
Knowing this helps you to analyze how you are doing in the Christian life.

II. OBSERVING AND KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS - 1 John 5:2

A. To observe – to carry out, to practice, to accomplish. This has to do with actions.

B. To keep – this has to do with right attitudes. 1 Samuel 15:22. Psalm 119:14, 16, 24, 97 – obeying God is not to be some external, legalistic thing you are to do, but you are to be delighted and whole hearted in your obedience to God. Ecclesiastes 12:13

C. *“Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people.”* Jeremiah 7:23

1. Obeying God means you have a relationship with God.
2. Obedience gives direction to your life, puts you on the right road, the right path.
If you don't obey God, then you will be spiritually lost.
3. Obey God, and it will go well with you. Psalm 119:1-8
4. Obedience is one of the main ways we love God and know His love. John 14:21, 23

III. GOD'S COMMANDS ARE NOT BURDENSOME – 1 John 5:3

Obeying God is a blessing, is encouraging, lifts your spirit; but disobeying God is a curse, a weight, a heavy yoke on you. Proverbs 5:22, Matthew 11:28-29

IV. THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD - 1 John 5:4

A. To overcome, to get victory – this is what God has given us, and wants for us.

B. Everyone who is a true Christian is born of God, and has overcome the world. John 16:33

C. The world: Vines Dictionary - *“the present condition of human affairs is alienation from and in opposition to God.”*

D. *“The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”* 1 John 5:19. The devil rules the world and has influenced the world and every aspect of the world. 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. We live in a present evil age and in a present evil world. It's filled with greed, coveting, pride, jealousy, lying, selfishness, lust, hate, anger, etc. Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 2:2

E. Christians have already gained the victory, and will be rescued from an evil earth and go to heaven, but you're not yet perfect. 2 Timothy 4:18, Jude 24-25, 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

V. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD – John 17:13-17

A. The world hates the Christians. Our desires and goals are opposed to the world. The world promotes sin, self and evil, and we promote Christ, holiness and godliness.

B. Christians are not of the world, this is not our home, heaven is our home. 1 John 2:15-17

C. God will leave us in this world for a short while, but He will protect us.

D. It is God's Word that helps us to be holy and stay holy while we live on this earth. It takes spiritual and mental effort on our part to be holy. Romans 12:1-2

E. Christ has sent us into the world on a mission. We are not here for ourselves, but are here for God's purposes and glory. Psalm 115:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

F. Christ is praying for us, for our blessing, protection, and usefulness to God.

VI. THE KEY TO VICTORY IS OUR FAITH – 1 John 5:4

Romans 8:37 – *“In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”*

1 Corinthians 15:57 – *“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Christ.”*

Romans 10:17 – *“Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

Matthew 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Romans 12:1-2

I DO NOT ASK YOU TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD,
BUT TO KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE
John 17:15

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How are different aspects of your Christian life connected to one another?
3. What are your reasons for obeying God? Do you feel God's commands are burdensome?
4. What is a victorious Christian? Are you victorious in your day to day life?
5. Describe the world system? How bad is it? Why is it bad?
6. How does the world system affect you? Are you in a practical way getting victory over it?
7. Why is faith so important when it comes to getting victory as a Christian?