

Theme: The covenant with Adam brought death. The covenant with Christ brings life. Where Adam failed, Christ prevailed. He rendered perfect obedience and perfect submission to the Father. He satisfied the requirements of the law for life and paid the price of redemption for those who bear Adam's sin.

Background: Last week - "In Adam" his disobedience became ours in death. "In Christ" his obedience is ours in life. We must consider that obedience in greater detail.

Introduction: Obedience; not a particularly *positive* word for many these days. But the most obvious and genuine expression of love *is* obedience! Christ's love for the Father – and for us – was expressed in his unflinching, unflinching obedience to the Father's will.

I. The Extent of Christ's Obedience

A. Fulfilling the Word of God

1. In Matthew
 - a. "To fulfill the scriptures": quoted 10 times in Matthew
 - b. Fulfilling all righteousness (Matthew 3:15)
 - c. Actively fulfills all the commands of God (Matthew 5:17)
2. In Mark
 - a. "The time is fulfilled" (Mark 1:14, 15)
 - b. "Let the scriptures be fulfilled" (Mark 14:49)
3. In Luke
 - a. "Everything written about me must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44-47)

NOTE: Christ did not simply meet the requirements of the law; he "fulfilled" it in the historical and redemptive advancement of salvation. He fulfills the Word such that in so doing he will actually "save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

B. Fulfilling the Will of God

1. In His own words: John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:28; 8:42
2. All that is necessary: Luke 24:26

C. Even unto death: Matthew 26:39; 26:53, 54; Philippians 2:8

II. The Source of Christ's Obedience

A. Christ's *Perfection* - through *suffering*? Hebrews 2:10

1. Sinless! (Hebrews 7:26, 27; John 8:46)
2. Becoming *fully qualified*: "Son though he was..." (Hebrews 5:8,9)
 - a. Perfect in his calling/vocation (Hebrews 10:7, 9)
 - 1) Came to do the Father's will!
 - b. Perfect in *obedience*
 - 1) He was never disobedient!
 - 2) Actually did it!
3. Learned obedience – through suffering! (Hebrews 5:8)
 - a. At the cross
 - b. In the garden: "Take this cup" (Mark 14:33-36)

NOTE: The qualities of Christian character are forged in the fires of suffering and affliction.

B. An unbreakable covenant between Father and Son! (Hebrews 7:15ff)

1. Priest eternal by power of an indestructible life! (Hebrews 7:16)

2. Jesus, the guarantor of a better covenant! (Hebrews 7:22)

Original Children's Catechism

Q. 43. With whom did God the Father make the covenant of grace?

A. With Christ, his eternal Son.

C. Love

1. Of the Father for the Son: Loved before the foundation of the world (John 17:23, 24; 15:9)

2. Of the Son for the Father

NOTE: "The surest evidence of our love to Christ is obedience to the laws of Christ. Love is the root, obedience is the fruit." (Matthew Henry)

III. The Fruit of Christ's Obedience

A. Perfect identification with his redeemed

B. Our redemption is secured! (Hebrews 7:25; 9:12, 26): His obedience, not mine, is the basis of my salvation!

C. The promise of eternal life is secured: That hope is in heaven, where Christ is seated.

D. We run with endurance. (Hebrews 12:1; 4:9-11)