

## **The Grand Theme – The Love of God (Part 6)**

Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; August 17, 2013

### **Introduction**

Review: *The Five Divine Loves*

- Love within the Trinity
- Love for Creation
- Love for Humanity
- Love for the Elect
- Love for the Obedient

### **The Truth about Obedience**

*How important is obedience?*

*The Issue is Always Obedience*

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, King Henry III of Bavaria grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made application to Prior Richard at a local monastery, asking to be accepted as a contemplative and spend the rest of his life in the monastery. 'Your Majesty,' said Prior Richard, 'do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king.' 'I understand,' said Henry. 'The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you.' 'Then I will tell you what to do,' said Prior Richard. 'Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you.' When King Henry died, a statement was written: 'The king learned to rule by being obedient.' (IPT 155)

- God loves the obedient.

1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 11:1; Psalm 146:7-9; Psalm 33:5; Psalm 11:5-7; Proverbs 15:9; Hebrews 1:9; Hebrews 12:11

- Obedience is love and God commands love.

1 John 5:2-3; 2 John 1:6; Romans 13:10

- Obedience is crucial to our assurance.

Matthew 7:21

- Obedience is crucial to our joy and God commands our joy.

John 14:21, 23; 15:10-11; Deuteronomy 6:24; Deuteronomy 10:12-13

- The gift of righteousness should result in greater obedience, not less obedience.

Romans 5:17-6:4

- The God who commands obedience is the God who enables obedience.

Romans 8:9-14

- Obedience should be our goal.

2 Corinthians 5:9

Our goal is to please God, to be pleased with God, and to be pleased by God.

How do we pursue obedience in order to enjoy the love of God more in our experience now and in the world to come?

- Pursue obedience realistically.
- Pursue obedience in light of the ways of God.

### **Factors that Affect Our Obedience**

*How far in obedience can we expect to get in this life?*

*Blind Spots and Blank Places in the Best of Us*

Jonathan Edwards and his wife owned household and farming slaves (up to 6 total), at least one, to the very end of his life.

It warns us to not idolize or idealize any man except Jesus. We will be disillusioned if we do at some point.

It cautions us that if he had blind spots on one issue, he may have other blind spots and we need to read with more care so that we aren't believing everything he says without discernment.

It should make us marvel that God uses any of us in light of our besetting sins.

It teaches that sanctification has blank places like knowledge has blind spots. We can be making good progress in five areas and doing badly in one sixth area. The Spirit isn't exercising power in that area as He could. We can see well in five areas and be blind in a sixth area.

It makes us pray for light on my life and my day. What are my blind spots? What are the church of today's blind spots? Whatever level of sanctification we may obtain in this life will still leave places that need to be addressed. (John Piper, *Jonathan Edwards and Slavery 'Ask Pastor John'*)

1. Flesh ('idol factory of our hearts')

Romans 1:22-25

2. World ('deception of Vanity Fair')

1 John 2:15-17

3. Devil ('lion seeking someone to devour')

1 Peter 5:8

4. Sinful people ('provoking to anger')

Ephesians 6:4

5. Weak bodies ('impatience and sleep' and 'blame on the brain' issues)

1 Timothy 5:22-24 (Timothy's wine)

6. Perception of circumstances ('surrounded by angels')

2 Kings 6:15-17 (Elisha and his servant)

7. Maturity ('infants in Christ who need milk')

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

8. God ('leaves weak areas in our lives' – Jonathan Edwards and slavery)

Romans 7:22-25