

O

Obedience

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

In his excellent book, **“Growing Up God’s Way,”** ¹ John A. Stormer has these things to say: *“‘Obey’ is the most important single word in the Bible. Being obedient is the key to receiving all of God’s blessings. To be saved from sin and Hell, a person must obey God’s command . . . Acts 16:31. There are a multitude of other material and spiritual blessings for those who obey God.”* [pages 103,4]

This current age is characterized by rebellion. Rebellion and disobedience come directly from man’s sinful nature. See: *II Timothy 3:2* and *Romans 5:19a*. We see rebellion in the home, rebellion in society, rebellion in our churches – all stemming from a basic rebellious attitude toward God. Now, as never before, we need to seriously concern ourselves with this subject of **OBEDIENCE**.

OBEDIENCE DEFINED.

John A. Stormer gives the following explanation of obedience:

“Obedience is doing what those in authority request or want. It is the opposite of ‘doing your own thing.’ True obedience involves doing what an authority wants immediately, respectfully, joyfully, and completely. Obedience requires the submission of the will of the individual to those in charge. True obedience ultimately stems from submission to God.” [Ibid: page 103]

GOD’S ATTITUDE REGARDING OBEDIENCE.

- A. Look up: *I Samuel 15:22*. What does God say is better than sacrifice?
To _____.
- B. Look up: *Acts 13:22*. How did the Lord describe David, the son of Jesse?
“A _____ after _____ own _____.”
- C. Why did the Lord so describe King David in *Acts 13:22b*?

GOD'S ATTITUDE REGARDING DISOBEDIENCE.

- A. Look up: *I Samuel 15:23*. What does God say rebellion is like?
The sin of _____ .
- B. What was the penalty required for rebellion in sons under the Mosaic Law? See: *Deuteronomy 21:18-21*.
- _____

THE SOURCE OF TRUE OBEDIENCE.

- A. *John 14:15* . "If ye _____ me, _____ my commandments."
- B. *John 14:23a*. "If a man _____ me, he will _____ my _____ ."
- C. *I John 5:3b* . "His commandments are not _____ ."
- D. *I John 4:19* . "We love him, because he _____ us."

PROMISES AND BLESSINGS RELATING TO OBEDIENCE.

- A. Look up: *I John 3:22*. What does God promise when we keep His commandments and do those things which are pleasing in His sight?

- B. According to *John 15:10*, where does an obedient Christian abide?

- C. Look up: *Matthew 6:31-33*. What three things does God promise to take care of for us when we put Him first?

- D. According to *John 15:14*, what does obedience make us?

- E. What is perfected in our lives when we keep God's Word, according to *I John 2:5*?

- F. If we hear the Word of God and yet do nothing about it, what is the result?
James 1:22 _____
 What does *James 4:17* call this? _____
- G. According to *Matthew 7:24-27*, to what does the Lord Jesus compare the life of an obedient person?

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IN OBEDIENCE.

It is against human (*sinful*) nature to obey. Obedience comes as a result of training, and attitude is all important here.

- A. Obedience ought to be a _____ . *Psalms 40:8*
- B. Obedience is to be with the whole _____ and _____ .
Deuteronomy 26:16
- C. Obedience requires us to be _____ and very
 C _____ . *Joshua 1:7*
- D. When obeying the Lord, we need to make _____ and not D _____ Y.
Psalms 119:60
- E. What should our attitude be when God's Word seems to contradict our own judgment? *Luke 5:4-7* _____
- F. According to *Matthew 21:28-31*, are good intentions alone sufficient for obedience? _____

AREAS OF GOD-DIRECTED OBEDIENCE.

Every Christian needs to recognize what has been termed "GOD'S CHAIN OF COMMAND." By this we mean that not every action required of us is commanded directly from Heaven; but that God has placed **others** over us in various segments of life, who will be used by Him to accomplish His perfect will in our lives.

We are to submit to these authorities **as unto the Lord**.

An example of this "chain of command" in relation to marriage is given in *I Corinthians 11:3*:

GOD THE FATHER



GOD THE SON



HUSBAND



WIFE

A wife who truly loves God will never “run” her husband, but lovingly submit to his leadership as unto the Lord.

Note: This has got *nothing* to do with equality or inequality, as the first example below shows.

A. The Lord Jesus Christ Was An Obedient Son.

1. He was obedient to God the Father’s _____ . *John 6:38,39*
2. He was not in any way unequal with the Father, declaring “*I and my Father are _____.*” *John 10:30*
3. According to *Philippians 2:5-8*, Jesus was obedient unto _____ .
4. As a child, Jesus submitted to His earthly mother and Joseph. See: *Luke 2:51.*

B. Five Areas Of Authority Requiring Christian Obedience.

1. In marriage.

The _____ is to submit to the _____ . Read: *Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; I Peter 3:1-6.*

2. In the home.

_____ are to obey their _____ . Read: *Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20.*

3. In the workplace.

_____ are to be obedient to their _____ . See: *Ephesians 6:5-7; Colossians 3:22.*

4. In society.

Every citizen is to be _____ to the higher powers. See: *Romans 13:1-7*

5. In our Church.

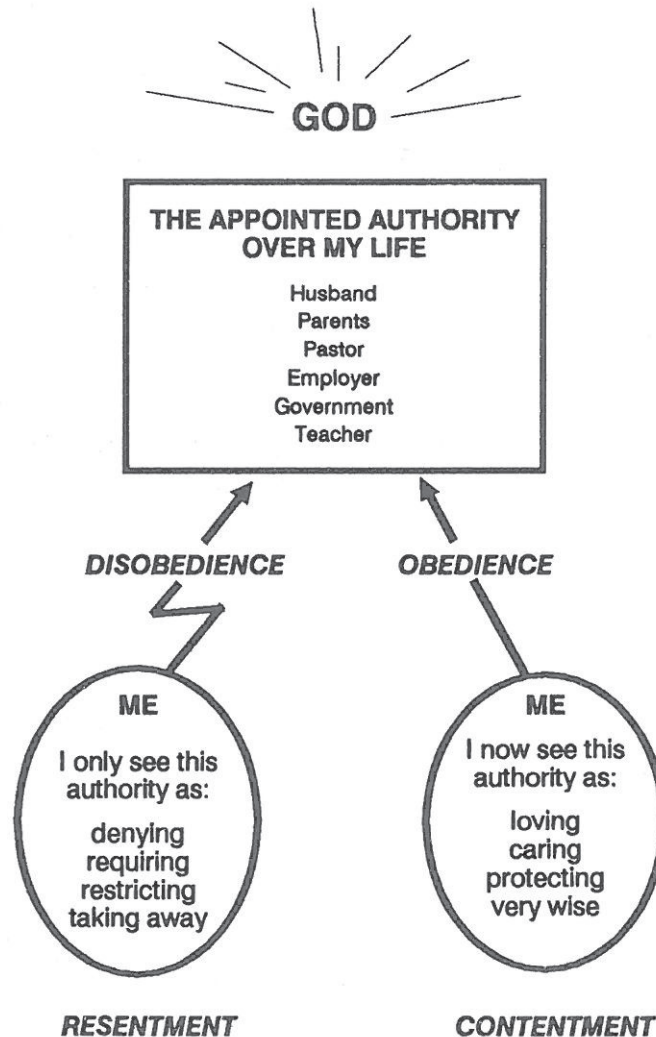
Each member is to _____ to those that have the rule over them (i.e., the pastor). *Hebrews 13:7,17.*

In each of these areas God expects you to obey those in authority just as you would (and with the same attitude) Him. Yet, it is in each of these areas we find the most rebellion today — bossy, domineering wives (or weak, spineless husbands); rampant, bratty children; militant unions; anarchists; and church members who continually “buck” the pastor.

Let not these things be named in our life — we have already read about God’s opinion of rebellion.

If the one in authority is failing to give leadership or be responsible — God will deal with him. Leave these things to God — don’t try to rectify the situation by usurping the authority. That’s wrong too!

Read *I Peter 3:1-7* and see that a wife CAN win her husband. How?? Not by taking over and running things, but by the ornament of subjection.



READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *Genesis Chapter 22*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *II Corinthians 10:5*

¹ Stormer, John A. *Growing Up God's Way*: Florissant, Missouri: Liberty Bell Press, 1984 (This book is highly recommended – especially to those with young children, or those just commencing family life.)