

It Matters

Obedience Matters

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1. Obedience is how we _____ with God

Philippians 2:12-13 "Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." (NLT=New Living Translation)

- Embrace the hard work of living out your salvation
- Follow the new desires He gives you

2. Obedience is how we _____ from deception

James 1:22 "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (NLT)

- Obedience protects us from being deceived about our maturity
- Obedience protects us from being deceived about our pride

3. Obedience is how we experience _____

James 1:25 "But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it." (NLT)

- Don't confuse knowing with doing
- God's blessing is always attached to behavior

4. Obedience is how we make our faith _____

James 2:14-17 "What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." (NLT)

- A useful faith meets needs

- A useful faith is a tool in the hand of God

Romans 6:13 "Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God." (NLT)

5. Obedience is how we protect from _____

Revelation 3:15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!" (NLT)

Revelation 3:19-20 "I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." (NLT)

- Respond relationally
- Respond submissively

Revelation 3:17 "You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked." (NLT)

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Discussion Questions:

1. Since obedience is how we cooperate with God, how do we work hard at living out our salvation? Why would Paul use the phrase to "work hard"? Is obedience hard?
2. How does obedience protect us from being deceived? Is there a problem with deception in many churches?
3. How is obedience connected to blessing? Why is it so much easier to prioritize knowing the Bible instead of doing the Bible? What does spiritual maturity truly look like?
4. How does our obedience make our faith useful? What would a useless faith look like?
5. How does obedience protect us from spiritual indifference? What does spiritual indifference look like?