

What is the most difficult thing God has told you to do? How long did it take you to obey? Are you glad you did? Why?

1. Obedience begins with active listening. (Jonah 3:1)

Discuss this definition of obedience: *Doing what I'm told to do, when I'm told to do it, with a right heart attitude.* Do you wish your kids would obey this way? Why? Do you think God would be pleased if we obeyed this way? Why?

How much time do you spend each week listening to music, news, Ted Talks, Jimmy Fallon, etc? How much time do you spend actively listening to God?

What did you think of the letter Pastor Trent read from Dr. Everett Piper in response to a student feeling victimized after hear a sermon on love?

2. Obedience is the path to fresh starts and second chances. (Jonah 3:1)

Christians rarely get the balance of grace and obedience. Which extreme do you tend to fall into? How have you been affected by family or churches which erred toward one or the other? Have you over-reacted to God's call to obedience by abusing grace?

3. Obedience is the overflow of love for God. (John 14:15, 21-24)

Discuss these statements: *Love without obedience is hypocrisy. Obedience without love is legalism.*

Can you point to a time in your past that you loved God more? How has that affected your obedience to God?

4. Obedience is the foundation of the Christian life. (Matthew 7:24-27)

What do you do instead of obey? Are you guilty of replacing obedience with any of the following?

- Counseling
- Behavior modification
- Self improvement
- Rationalizing or blaming others
- Changing the definition of sin

5. Obedience is rewarded by God. (Deuteronomy 28:1, 15)

List as many rewards of obedience as you can. How many of these are you currently experiencing?

6. Obedience is the proof of genuine salvation. (1John 2:3-4, 3:6-9, 24)

Do you see enough evidence of obedience in your life to give you 100% confidence that you have been born again?

Have I placed limits on what I will do in obedience to God? I am unwilling to:

- Sacrifices my time in order to serve others?
- Give sacrificially of my resources to further His kingdom and build His church?
- Set aside time on a daily basis to meet Him in prayer and Bible study?
- Associate with the downcast in order to reach them with the gospel?
- Reduce my work hours and if necessary my income in order to meet the spiritual needs of my family.
- Move to a new or unfamiliar place in order to follow God's calling?
- Break off relationships that are drawing me away from Christ?
- Stand alone for righteousness, even at the risk of being ridiculed or rejected?
- Declare my commitment to the local church through membership?
- [Husbands] love my wife more than I love myself, and provide spiritual leadership in the home?
- [Wives] respect my husband and submit to his leadership?

Am I continuing to do something God wants me to stop?

- Overspending, failing to pay what I owe?
- Arguing?
- Using profanity?
- Abusing alcohol or drugs?
- Gambling?
- Gossiping, slandering, harboring a critical spirit?
- Holding a grudge?
- Expressing anger?
- Lying, cheating, stealing from employer or others?
- Using pornography?
- Sex outside of marriage?

Is there anything I know God wants me to do that I have not done?

- Follow the Lord in baptism?
- Forgive someone who has hurt me?
- Reach out to someone who needs encouragement?
- Honor my parents, teachers, or authorities?
- Get out of debt?
- Give a biblical portion of my income to support the church?
- Share the gospel with a friend or family member?
- Correct and instruct my children?
- Take care of my body with diet and exercise?
- Surrender to vocational Christian service?

Additional Scripture

- Deut. 26:16
- Matt. 26:39
- Acts 4:29
- Philippians 4:8
- 1Peter 1:14-16

