

Upcoming Events

Revelation class: Today at 2:30

The Works of the Devil

Tuesday Meet Up Class

August 17 at 7:00 p.m.

77682 Country Club Drive A-2

Palm Desert

Bible Quote about Obedience

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.” Matthew 7:21

Biblethoughts.blog

Valuable admonition to consider; check it out!

“Temptations to Sin”

August Birthdays

4 Noah Perales 12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield

16 Nick Hoffman 25 Pat Limburg 31 Andrea Chandler

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

Indio Informer

Vol. 32 No. 33

August 15, 2021

Obedience

Learning to Obey

By Joe Chesser

Obedying is not natural for any of us. Think about it. We are born concerned only for ourselves. We cry if we are not fed when we're hungry, or when our diaper needs changing, or when things don't go our way. We resist for a while being taught to eat at certain times and to be potty trained. Why? Because obeying seems counterproductive to us. It means giving up our own will and surrendering to someone bigger and stronger and smarter. Obeying is giving up our independence and challenging our pride. Unfortunately, resisting obedience doesn't stop when we become adults, especially in a society that promotes "my rights". The outcome of such an attitude is predictable: chaos in families, in communities and nations, and even in churches. For many believers, obedience has become a dirty word, a harsh and ugly concept to be avoided. Words like love and grace and mercy are much more palatable.

However, if we truly want to be like Jesus we cannot overlook the importance of learning obedience. In Hebrews 5.8 it says of Jesus, *“Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.”* Not the only place, but the most obvious place where Jesus learned obedience was at the time of his death. The night before his death he prayed that God would find some way for him to avoid the suffering of the cross: *“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will”* (Matthew 26.39). Since there was no other way, Jesus obeyed the will of the Father by willingly enduring the cruel suffering of the cross. Even though he was the Son of God, he had to learn obedience from what he suffered.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

The next verse, Hebrews 5.9, then calls on us to also learn to obey. *“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”* Because Jesus perfectly obeyed the will of the Father by going to the cross, he not only gave us a perfect example of obedience, he also became the only source of eternal salvation for any of us (John 14.6), and the only way to access that source is by, like Jesus, learning to obey. Again, this points out that obedience is not natural for any of us. It is something that must be learned. But if we will put out the effort to learn obedience, the promised result is eternal life. Jesus put it simply, *“If you love me, you will obey what I command”* (John 14.15 NIV). Paul later wrote that those who will be shut out from the presence of God forever are those who do not know God and those who *“do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thess. 1.8-9). Just before Jesus left the earth, he instructed his apostles that those who are baptized are also to be taught *“to obey everything I have commanded you”* (Matthew 28.20). Obedience is something to be taught and learned.

It will not come naturally or easily. It takes effort and commitment. But as John wrote, *“this is love; that we walk in obedience to his commands”* (2 John 1.6).

Right or Wrong?

By Bill Brandstatter

I have noticed a change in our society. There are some things that were once considered wrong, even illegal, are now considered okay and legal. One example is the legalization of marijuana. When I grew up in the 1960's and even until recently, the use of that drug was illegal. Now some states have legalized it.

What was once wrong is now considered to be right. I once read an article about “civil disobedience.” The article was about individuals who were objecting to the minimum wage and wanted it increased to \$15.00 per hour. There was even a meeting being held on civil disobedience. One lady commented that their efforts would change the moral consciousness of people. I am afraid our

society has become more lawless in many areas, and the idea of obedience is not what it once was. Society is changing the idea of right and wrong.

What does the Bible say about this? God, after all is the great lawgiver and lawmaker. From Him we learn obedience and disobedience. Isaiah, the prophet, wrote, *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness”* (Isaiah 5:20). In the book of Romans Paul wrote about those who *“did not like to retain God in their knowledge”* (Romans 1:28).

Obedience is something the Bible emphasizes. Jesus saves those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8, 9). Paul wrote that people should obey the gospel (Romans 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9). Jesus stated, *“If you love me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). The Hebrews writer stated: *“We have human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?”* (Hebrews 12:9). What we learn in one area of life can often affect us in another. My concern is that when our society makes legal that which was once illegal, and makes disobedience something to be considered right, what will happen to the souls of individuals who need to obey Christ? Will they understand the obligation to the law that God has given? Will they obey that form of doctrine that was delivered by the apostles? (Romans 6:17).

We need to obey the Bible, no matter what man says. Peter and the other apostles said; *“We ought to obey God rather than man”*(Acts 5:29). So, when society says something is okay, we should see what God has to say. When society makes something legal, we need to check what the great lawgiver has in mind. When society promotes disobedience and rebellion, we need to look at what is written in God's Word. God wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). We can only do that if we know what it means to obey the laws which God has given.

Let us learn from the Scriptures and obey from the heart (Romans 6:17).