
SOLA FIDE

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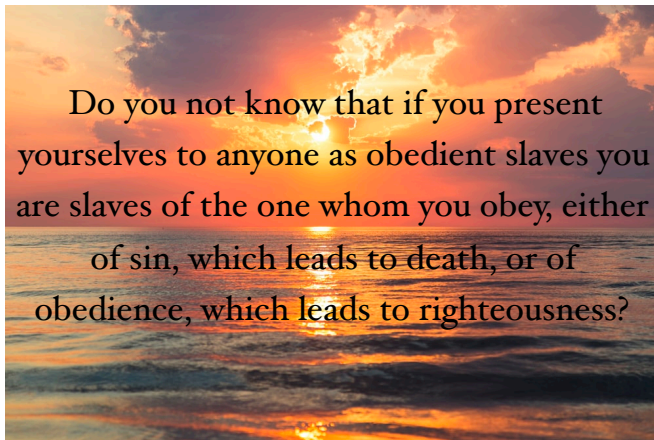
Obedience

When we think of Jesus and the life He had lived on this earth, we see many of His attributes. Some of the attributes that come into mind are: His love, compassion, and humility. We see Jesus' love when he healed the sick (Matthew 14:14). We see Jesus' compassion when he saw multitude of people who were lost (Matthew 9:36). We see Jesus' humility when he washed the feet of the disciples (John 13:14). Yet one of the attributes that we often forget is His obedience; Jesus continually demonstrated His obedience to God the Father throughout His life and throughout His earthly ministry. And this same obedience is what He demands from His people as well. Yet we need to remember that our obedience to Jesus is determined by our answer to the question, "who is Jesus?" If you believe that Jesus was just a wise man then obedience is not necessary; just because someone is wise doesn't mean that you are obligated to obey him. If you believe that Jesus was just a good teacher then obedience is still not necessary; a good teacher may be worthy of respect but he doesn't have the ground for your obedience. But if Jesus is who He said He is in the bible, if He is our Lord, Savior, King and God, then obedience is necessary. This is because the position of being the Lord, Savior, King and God warrants complete submission from His people. Therefore, let us not forget that even though our Jesus Christ is the lord of grace, love, compassion, freedom, He is also our Lord, Savior, King and God who deserves our complete obedience.

In order to bring obedience to the lord, there are several things we want to pay attention to, but I would like to talk about just three of them. The first is the Word of God. Bible is clear and direct way in which our King communicates with us. His commandments, His everlasting will and His unchanging attributes are all communicated in His Word. So God's people, in order to obey the lord, must start with submitting to the Word of God; Ecclesiastes 8 states, "Obey the king's command. His word is supreme..." In addition, God's Word also gives us personal daily guidance ("I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" - Psalm 119:11). So not only does the Word of God represents the authority of the King, but it also personally guides and directs His people to Him - without the Word of God, we wouldn't

know where to start!! Therefore, we must pay attention to His Word and begin the life of obedience by submission to the Word of God.

Another immediate way to practice our obedience to God is by submitting to the leaders set over us in the local church, where we are members of. Of course, church leaders are not God, so they are neither to replace God nor to be worshipped. Yet the Bible speaks the importance of them, that Jesus has established the human leaders in the church to lead (Ephesians 4); so, to ignore or to dismiss the leaders set over us would be going against what Jesus had established. Hebrews 13:17 states, “Obey your



leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.” The leaders set over us are established by Jesus Christ to bless, encourage, challenge, rebuke, correct, train us for the purpose of growth in faith; therefore, we must take full advantage of the leaders set over us through submitting to them.

Lastly, we can also immediately practice our obedience to God by submitting to the governing authority. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, the bible makes it clear that God’s people are to obey the governing authorities. As Christians, we aren’t called to rise up against a government but to submit to the government (given that it doesn’t completely and directly oppose God’s will). Romans 13:1 states, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” We need to think about how we can obey God whom we cannot see when we can’t even obey our own governing authorities whom we can see. Jesus said, “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Matthew 22:21). This is not a mere instruction to pay taxes, but to obey the governing authorities set over us. The government is not our Lord, far from it; so, we are not to place our hope in it nor expect deliverance by it, but we are to submit to the governing authorities because God had set them over us.

So, brothers and sisters, our lord is the lord of grace, love, compassion, freedom, but let us not forget that He is also our Lord, Savior, King and God who deserves our complete obedience. Let us not imitate the pattern of rebelliousness of the world, but wholly obey our God!!

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