

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

1. If you were given a set of rules to follow on a job or at work...

a) Would you tend to be a rule enforcer, a rule follower, or a rule breaker?

b) Would you follow the "letter of the law" or the "creative application" of the law?

2. Share a situation in your own life when obeying God seemed foolish or even painful, but when you obeyed, the outcome was good...

DIGGING DEEPER

3. If Pastor Randy had to give a 5-minute version of the message Sunday, what two points or ideas would you tell him to include no matter what?

4. We looked at the obedience of the blind man in John 9, and observed several different obstacles to obeying God.

a) Which of these do you think is most common obstacle among Christians? Why?

b) Which is the greatest obstacle to prevent unbelievers from obeying God?

Which obstacle is the most confusing to unbelievers?

c) If you had to identify with one of these obstacles, which would it be? Why?

5. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-29 which is one of the greatest pictures of disobedience in the Bible. Saul is commanded to execute the judgement of God on a wicked people who had attacked Israel when they came out of Egypt. But Saul did not obey God and the consequences were terrible.

(Keep the conversation here grounded in the text and in other Bible passages. Try to encourage people to base their answers on scripture so that the discussion doesn't simply become a matter of opinion. This is a powerful illustration of disobedience and has many layers. Please take the time to read and study this on your own before facilitating your group.)

a) What did God command Saul to do and how did Saul disobey?

God's command is found in verses 2 and 3. And Saul's disobedience is found in verse 9. How could God's command to kill an entire people group and their livestock be good? Is partial obedience actually obedience at all? Why? Do good intentions justify disobedience or partial obedience?

b) What obstacles or excuses prevented trust and obedience in this story?

(There are many ways to express the causes of disobedience in this passage. List them in whatever way makes the most sense to you. Here are *some* of the root causes...)

V9 - Foolishness. It looked foolish to destroy all of the perfectly good plunder.

V9 - Inconvenience. It was inconvenient to kill all those animals and destroy all those resources.

V24 - Fear of man. Saul feared the people more than He respected God.

V19 - Greed. The people "swooped" on the spoil. They did not trust that God's outcome would be better than what they could get by taking the plunder.

V12 - Misplaced praise. Instead of recognizing God for the victory, Saul set up a monument for himself. He trusted his own strength over God's provision.

V15 - Partial Obedience. Saul justified his disobedience by claiming that he partially obeyed and that the only reason he disobeyed was to worship God with more resources.

V26 - Disregard of God's Word. Saul rejected what God had commanded him. He did not obey or trust the word of God.

c) Based on the text, what do you think was the core reason Saul disobeyed?
Saul valued other things above God. Just like Adam and Eve, Saul did not trust that God and His plan were best. He valued his own reputation (V24) and he pursued his own praise (V12) above obeying God. Ultimately, Saul did not trust that God was the most satisfying and that God's commands would lead to the greatest good.

Why does God compare Saul's rebellion with divination (seeking guidance through witches or mediums)?

Why does God compare Saul's stubbornness to idolatry?

d) What is the greatest reason to obey God in this passage?

God delights in obedience (V22)! Obeying God makes God happy. That is an awesome thing to think about. Psalm 147:11 tells us God takes pleasure in those who fear Him (trust and draw near). That should be a much greater and more powerful motivation than simply avoiding the consequences of disobeying or adhering to a set of laws.

Why does God delight in obedience?

Is God's delight in obedience good news for us?

e) Read John 14:21-23. Jesus says obedience is a product or display of our love of God. How does that relate to God's delight in obedience?

If you love someone, you pursue the best for them regardless of the cost. In other words, you seek to make them happy or fulfilled or joyful. In God's case, we know that obedience brings God delight and joy and happiness. So if we love God, we will seek to bring Him delight by obeying. God's pleasure in obedience is the key motivation that connects our love of God with our obedience of God.

Is seeking someone's joy or happiness or delight (in the right things) a sign of love?

6. James 2 talks about the reality that faith without works is worthless. We know those "works" are acts of trust and obedience.

(This is a very applicational type of question. Be wise with how you approach it in your group.)

a) What area's in your life do you personally have the hardest time obeying God?

What specific commands of God do you struggle to obey? Why?

b) If a failure to obey comes from a lack of faith, why do you have trouble believing God in this area?

When we disobey God in an area we display a lack of trust in God in that area. So every act of disobedience can be boiled down to a specific lack of faith in God's character or His plan.

What doubts fuel your personal challenges to obedience?

c) Are you currently struggling to trust and obey God in a situation in your life?