

Motivation for Obedience

John 14:15, 21- 24

Definition of Obedience

(Webster Dictionary):

“a giving in to the orders or instructions of one in authority or control”

Do we obey because...

“all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth”
(Mt 28:18)?

Or... *“if you love me you will keep my commandments”* (Jn.14:15)?



What is our motivation for obedience?

John 14:15, 21-24

v. 15 - *“If you love me, you will obey what I command...”*

v. 21 - *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

v. 22 - *“Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, ‘But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?’”*



v. 23 - *“Jesus replied, ‘if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’”*

v. 24 - *“He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me”*

Matt.7:21-22 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?’”*

Why Do You Obey Jesus? Is it...

- Because of the reward in heaven?
- Because of the fear of being punished?
- Because of no other choice?
- Because of love for Him?

4 Motives of obedience.

1. The Reward In Heaven – We obey Christ but we do it because we are hoping to get something out of it.



John 14:14

“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

The context: John 14

Jesus says that...

v12 – The disciples would continue to do what Christ has done on earth (even greater things).

v13 – Jesus will help them to do anything to glorify God.

v14 – *“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it”*



Phil 4:11-13

v11 *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”*

v12 *“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.*

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

v13 *“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

- Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt.6:33).
- That they may know God’s will in their lives (Col.1:9).

2. Fear of Punishment -

We obey Christ because we do not want to be punished.

Proverbs 3:7

“fear the Lord and shun evil”

Philippians 2:12

“work out your salvation with fear and trembling”

3. No Other Choice – When we become a Christian we are taught to follow a set of dos and don'ts list.



Matthew 23:27-28

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”



4. An Over Flow of Love –

We obey Christ because we love Him.

2 John 1:6

“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.”



How do you know you obey Christ and His words because of love?

A. When you obey His commands

WHOLEHEARTEDLY

B. When you obey Christ's commands

WITHOUT QUESTION

C. When we obey Christ's commands **CHEERFULLY**

Psalm 119:97 *"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it day long"*

Psalm 119:165 *"Great peace have they who love your law, and
nothing can make them stumble."*

D. When we obey Christ's commands **CONSISTENTLY**

Psalm 119:44 *"I will always obey your law, for ever and ever."*

1. Mary could have chosen to obey God's plan for her life because she wanted the special reward of God's favor...
2. Mary could have been fearful that God would punish her if she refused...
3. Mary could have felt she had no choice imposing a strict self-righteousness upon herself...
4. She lovingly obeyed God's purpose and plan for her life...

"I am the Lord's servant; may it be to me as you have said" (Lk.1:38).



What's your motivation for obedience to Christ's command?

Is it...

1. Because of the reward in heaven?
2. Because of the fear of being punished?
3. Because of no other choice?
4. Because of love for Him?

Love is proven genuine through obedience.

