

Unity Through Obedience

Introduction

- Previous study: Unity through goals
- Last 2 studies: Becoming more like Christ!
 - The mind of Christ
 - The actions of Christ
- Growing to be like Christ should be a goal we set for ourselves daily
 - Growing to be like Him will cause us to grow to be closer to one another!

Introduction

Ephesians 4:13–15

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Praise for Obedience...

- Context: Philippians 2:12-16
 - Paul praised these brethren for their devotion to obedience
- “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
 - Predominant view: Works have nothing to do with salvation!
 - Works are clearly connected to salvation by Paul
 - Importance of the obedience of Christ
 - Hebrews 5:5-11

Praise for Obedience...

Philippians 2:8

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Praise for Obedience...

Hebrews 5:8–9

8 though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...

Praise for Obedience...

- What is meant by: “Work out your own salvation”?
 - Work has a direct impact on our “own salvation”
 - Does this mean we “earn salvation”?
 - Some view these concepts as contradictory
- Obedience is necessary, regardless of consequences

Praise for Obedience...

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Praise for Obedience...

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

Praise for Obedience...

Revelation 2:10

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Praise for Obedience...

Luke 17:7–10

7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "

Praise for Obedience...

- Two questions:
 - What is obedience, and what does it have to do with salvation?
 - What is “enough” obedience?
- Obedience exemplified by Christ
- This is a process!
 - Philippians 3:12-14
 - Once saved, always saved?
 - Application for us: NEVER GIVE UP!
- Personal evaluation

Praise for Obedience...

John 4:31–34

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Praise for Obedience...

2716 κατεργάζομαι [*katergazomai* /kat·er·gad·zom·ahee/]
v. From 2596 and 2038; TDNT 3:634; TDNTA 421; GK 2981;
24 occurrences; AV translates as “work” 15 times, “do” five
times, “do deed” once, “to perform” once, “cause” once,
and “work out” once. **1** to perform, accomplish, achieve. **2**
to work out i.e. to do that from which something results. 2a
of things: bring about, result in. **3** to fashion i.e. render one
fit for a thing.

Praise for Obedience...

1 Peter 1:6–9

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Praise for Obedience...

2 Peter 1:10–11

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praise for Obedience...

- “Work out your own salvation...with fear and trembling...”
 - Motivation, attitude toward our working
 - “Fear and Trembling”
- Why?
 - We can become disobedient and thus miss out on eternal life
 - God is awe inspiring
 - Ezekiel 1:22-2:2
- Many mock the idea of fearing God

Praise for Obedience...

5401 φόβος [*phobos* /**fob**-os/] n m. From a primary *phobomai* (to be put in fear); TDNT 9:189; TDNTA 1272; GK 5832; 47 occurrences; AV translates as “fear” 41 times, “terror” three times, and translated miscellaneously three times. **1 fear, dread, terror. 1a that which strikes terror. 2 reverence for one’s husband.**

Praise for Obedience...

5156 τρόμος [*tromos* /**trom**-os/] n m. From 5141; GK 5571; Five occurrences; AV translates as “trembling” four times, and “tremble + 2192” once. **1** a trembling or quaking with fear. **2** with fear and trembling, used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfil his duty.

Praise for Obedience...

Ephesians 6:5

5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ...

It is God Who Works in You...

- Many dismiss all of Paul's teaching up to this point based on a misunderstanding of this one verse!
- Paul said that you do the work...then that it is God's work. How?
 - Vs. 12 could be discouraging...
 - They couldn't be good enough on their own
 - But, vs. 13 tells them they don't have to be!

It is God Who Works in You...

Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

It is God Who Works in You...

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ...

It is God Who Works in You...

- How this work of God is accomplished is understood in the context
 - Example of Christ
 - His mind, and His example
 - “will and work”
 - How did Jesus know what “will and work” He was to have?
 - They were given by the Father
 - We respond to God’s revealed will
 - We become HIS work

It is God Who Works in You...

John 6:38

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

It is God Who Works in You...

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

It is God Who Works in You...

Ephesians 2:8–10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 **For we are His workmanship,** created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Obey Without Complaining or Disputing

- Don't complain! Don't dispute!
 - Why?

Obey Without Complaining or Disputing

Philippians 2:15

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...

Conclusion

- We must be obedient to God with fear and trembling!
- When we are obedient, God does His part in us
- When we are obedient, we are “working out our own salvation”
 - We are lights in the world
- When we are all completely devoted to obedience, we work in unity
- When we are obedient, we are growing to be more like the Savior!