

March 8 Discussion Questions

“The Test of Love is Obedience”

John 14:15-31

Review

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments...Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:15, 21

God **expects** Christians to obey His commandments.

1. Our obedience **personifies** the character of God (v.24).
2. Our obedience **proves** our love for God (v.15, 21, 23).
3. Our obedience **promotes** our love for God (v.21-23).

God **equips** Christians to obey His commandments by the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit **indwells** us, so we can **endure** temptation when no one is watching (v.16-19).
2. The Holy Spirit **instructs** us, so we can **overcome** the lies of the enemy (v.26).
3. The Holy Spirit **instills** us with peace, so we can boldly **face** our fears (v.27-30).

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." John 14:16

Connect

1. Has there been an authority figure from your past that you struggled to obey? Why was that so? Looking back, how would have changed your response to the situation?
2. How has your upbringing conditioned your understanding of grace and obedience? Are you inclined to emphasize one over another in your relationship with people and God?

Read John 14:15-31

Discuss

3. Why is it important for us to keep Christ's commands?
4. How do love and obedience tie together? Can you have one without the other?
5. According to v.21, how does our relationship with God change through our obedience?
6. How does our obedience promote our love for God? Share an example from your life.
7. Who does the Father send to help us fulfill His commandments? Share practically how we can engage the Holy Spirit's power in moments of need.

8. How can we refine our perspective on sacrifices we make for God? (see Rm 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17; Matt 19:29)

Apply

9. How would you explain your relationship to the commands of Christ? How has this matured through the years?
10. Do you or have you struggled with your assurance of salvation? What truth has the power to set you free from doubt?
11. How can we best help someone who claims Christ yet seems to be caught in an unrepentant lifestyle of habitual sin?
12. How can we exercise a healthy balance of grace and truth with the people we love?
13. What obstacle of obedience are you needing to overcome in order to enjoy Jesus more? What kind of sacrifice does it require you to make?

Pray

14. Pray for strength to follow through on the next act of obedience each person senses the Holy Spirit leading them toward.