

# what a christian should do



**Words to Find:**  
 Attend church  
 Be an example  
 Be baptized  
 Grow  
 Obey God  
 Pray  
 Read Bible  
 Serve  
 Study  
 Tithe  
 Witness

## What Our Obedience Shows

*Beecher*

A king is made glorious by the obedience of the subjects throughout his realm. He is honored in that way.

The parent is honored by the child. How? Not so much by his running around the neighborhood saying, "Oh, what a great man my father is!" or, "What a beautiful woman my mother is!" They would be truly honored when it is

observed that the child studiously fulfills his parents' known wishes.

Likewise, the teacher is honored, not by what the pupil says, but by what he does. Find out what they want who are put over you, and do what pleases them; and then you will honour them.

We honor and bring glory to God when we do what He commands. Disobedience to His commandments and desires is only dishonoring Him.

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A free publication from: [www.OpenThouMineEyes.com](http://www.OpenThouMineEyes.com) Vol.: 465

## The Church of My Own Opinion

*Bill Brinkworth*

"Well, I need to get up. It is Sunday. I really do need to go to church," he thought; as he rubbed sleep out of his eyes. He struggled to make the first move of the day out of his bed.

"But then again, why do I have to go? God is everywhere. So why can't I worship Him here or on the lake. I know, I can take the boat and go fishing. It will be okay with God. I'll just talk to Him out in the boat and admire all He has made."

From the heavens, the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit, whispered to him, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is ..." (Heb. 10:25a).

That fleeting remembrance of the verse soon left, as the half-slumbering sluggard, drifted in and out of sleep. Minutes later, he again awoke, and continued his thoughts. "Besides, the preacher is not always right anyway. He thinks the Bible is the only source of knowing God's way. Why it's just a book, and

probably has a lot of mistakes. What does he know; besides, I'm a good person, and I think I know what is right. I don't think you have to go to church every time. I don't think God wants me to stay away from everything that's bad. I know he wants me to have fun sometimes. He probably doesn't expect me to be perfect all the time."

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## Sermon Listeners

*Harry Todd*

*The Bible says be not hearers  
 But also doers too,  
 But, as you sit in church,  
 You hear, but do not do.*

*It's a wonder how you listen,  
 The message loud and clear,  
 The listening seems so intent,  
 But somehow, you never, ever hear.*

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## The Church of My ...

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Again the soft voice of the Holy Spirit put in the mind of the contemplator a verse that was preached the last time he was in church, "*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*" (Isaiah 40:8)

The fleeting reminder of the verse did nothing to change the opinion of the dozing man. Another train of thought was chased around in the man's logic. "Yeah, I'm a good person. I don't need the preaching and Bible reading like those other folks. I do a lot of good things, and God knows about them. As long I'm not as bad as the others, I'm sure it's okay with God."

The Holy Spirit wanted to shout down from heaven, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*" (Rom. 3:23), but He didn't think He would be listened to. He decided He would try one more time to speak to the hardening heart, "*... There is none righteous, no, not one.*" (Rom. 3:10b).

The verse was received in the half-slumbering mind, but it too was ignored. "Well, if I don't go to church, I can save some money by not putting it in the offering plate. Besides the preacher just wants my money. That church has got more than enough."

Immediately the Holy Spirit

"Almighty God has posted His 'No Trespassing' signs everywhere, but in spite of His warnings men deliberately go their own way." — Oliver Green

thought of the verse about how not tithing is robbing from God (Malachi 3:8-10), but He reasoned, "Why should I tell him. He's ignored everything I tried to tell him already. He'll just rationalize it somehow. Probably the old excuse, 'Well that's just an Old Testament verse and not for today.' He has made up his mind to do what he wants and will not obey anyway." The Holy Spirit was silent to the slumberer, and spoke no more.

Ten more minutes of dozing continued, until finally the man made his first move to get out of his bed. He already had formulated his plans for the day. He would walk the dog, get breakfast, and hook-up the boat to the truck and head out to the lake.

One more local Church of My Own Opinion had just let out, but there would be millions of them meeting all over the world. It was the most popular denomination. As with most of the meetings, the Holy Spirit's voice was not wanted to be heard; so He was likewise silent in most of their services, too. He was very grieved (Eph. 4:30).

**"True obedience hath no lead at its heels." — Adams**

## Sermon Listeners

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*You listen with "deaf" ears  
And your heart is far away,  
After church you have no idea  
What the pastor had to say.*

*You may listen with a smile,  
A very picture of happiness,  
But the Word you never hear  
Because of your heart of bitterness.*

*Some are like the turtle,  
Yes, they listen very well,  
And when they're bothered,  
They withdraw deep into their shell.*

*Why not be a sermon listener  
And while listening, silently  
pray,  
"Lord, I'm here to listen  
So let me really hear today!"*

## The Sculptor

*Bates, 1625-1699*

If a sculptor, after fashioning a piece of marble into a human figure, could inspire it with life and sense, give it motion, understanding, and speech; can it be imagined that the first act of the creation would be to prostrate itself at the feet of the maker. The "statue" would willingly be

in subjection and be thankful, offering whatever it could to its maker.

The almighty hand of God formed our bodies. He breathed into us the spirit of life. Should not the power of love constrain us to live wholly according to His will?



## His Way

*C. H. Spurgeon*

In all true service to God, it is essential that we serve Him in the way He has appointed. You would be grievously plagued if you had in your house a cleaning woman who did what she wanted to do, not what you asked her to do: continually running up and down the stairs, roaming into every room, opening every closet, taking things that did not belong to her, moving this piece of furniture and dusting that, and generally keeping up a perpetual stir and worry. You would not call this service, but annoyance. That which is done contrary to orders is disobedience, not service. If anything were done without orders, it may be excessive activity, but it certainly is not service.

**"IT** is vain thought to flee from the work that God appoints us; for the sake of finding a greater blessing, instead of seeking it where alone it is to be found in loving obedience." — Eliot