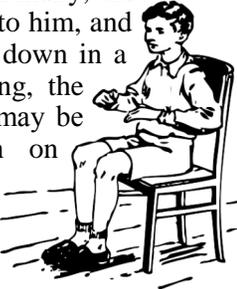


Standing on the Inside

Walter Knight

A mother repeatedly told her little boy to sit down. The boy continued to stand, disobeying his mother. Finally, the mother went to him, and plopped him down in a chair. Fuming, the boy said, "I may be sitting down on the outside, but I am standing on the inside!"



How displeasing to God is mere outward obedience, mere outward conformity to His commandments.

No Flowers, but a ...

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*I said, "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me they say."*

*He answered, "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you, or they."*

*I pleaded for time to be given.
He said, "Is it hard to decide?"*

*It will not seem hard in Heaven
To have followed the steps of your
Guide."*

*I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town.
He said, "My child, do you yield?
Will you leave the flowers for the
crown?"*

*Then into His hand went mine,
And into my heart came He,
And I walk in a light Divine,
The path I had feared to see.*

The Wise Answer

D. L. Moody

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "How is the will of God done in heaven?"

One child answered, "Cheerfully."

Another, "By everybody."

A third, "All the time."

But, the best answer was, "It is done without asking any questions."



**I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
O'er mountain or plain or sea;
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,
I'll be what you want me to be.**

— Excerpt from the hymn "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go"

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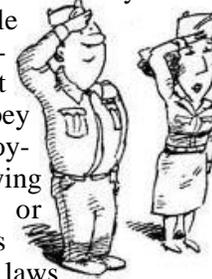


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Obedience

Bill Brinkworth

Unfortunately, it is natural for most to not want to obey any authority. Often, it is a challenge to humble ourselves to submit to a power over us. In many lives a power struggle rages as children do not want to obey parents, employees resist obeying employers, or even citizens refuse to obey laws.



To some, obedience is no longer a struggle; as they have made up their minds a long time ago not to obey anyone but themselves, and certainly not to let anyone have any rule or reign over them.

Like it or not, all of us have to obey someone or an authority over us for the rest of our lives. If there is not order, there will be anarchy and disorder.

Ever since early times, man has struggled with whom he will obey. Someone pointed out that a main theme of the Bible is government; who will govern whom.

Will it be God that rules and reigns in our lives, or will we not even obey Him, and instead be our own master?

Continued on Page 2

No Flowers, but a Crown

George McDonald

*I said, "Let me walk in the field."
He said, "No, walk in the town."*

I said, "There are no flowers there."

He said, "No flowers, but a crown."



*I said, "But the skies are black,
There is nothing but noise and din."*

*And He wept as He sent me back.
"There is more," He said, "There is sin."*

*I said, "But the air is thick
And fogs are veiling the sun."
He answered, "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone."*

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Obedience

Continued from Page 1

No matter what we have convinced ourselves to believe, or what has been drummed into our head, there is a godly command to obey many things. Here is some of what God's Word has to say about obedience:

📖 All have a command to submit to God's law.

"Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day." Deuteronomy 27:10
Also: Psalm 18:44

📖 Obedience to His commandments is very important to God. *"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." I Samuel 15:22* The context of this verse is concerning Israel, but it reveals the heart of God concerning obedience to Him.

📖 Because of Adam and Eve's refusal to obey one of God's commands, all are born as sinners and will have to battle sin's control the rest of their lives. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*

"Obedience and respect at home prepare the way for obedience to the employer, and they are joined with other virtues that help toward a prosperous career; crowned with a ripe, honored old age. Disrespect for parents is often the first step in the downward track." — D. L. Moody

Romans 5:19

📖 Many of the things in this world obey God. His word mentions that the weather, waves, animals, and the rest of His creation obey Him. It is a shame when we, who are created in His image, do not obey Him at all times.

"... for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him."

Mark 1:27 Also: Matthew 8:27

📖 If one admits it or not, he is obeying someone all the time. All are servants to one master, be it the Master of the universe, or master of our own selfish desires.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Romans 6:12 Also: Rom. 6:16

📖 God reminds us throughout the Bible, that life will be a lot easier and more blessed by Him, if we simply obey what He tells us to do.

"A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Deut. 11:27-28 Although the

context is a command to Israel, the principle applies to the believer today, when he obeys the Lord. Also: I Sam. 12:14-15

📖 All people will have to obey someone in the future. If they do not learn obedience at a younger age, they may have a problem obeying authority in the future. That is one reason why God commands children to submit to the authority of their parents.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ephesians 6:1 Also Colossians 3:20, Prov. 30:17, Exodus 20:12

📖 Men should obey God. This is part of God's plan of the hierarchy of leadership.

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." I Cor. 11:3

📖 Wives are to obey their husbands.

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Ephesians 5:24
Also: I Peter 3:1

📖 We need to obey our employer.

"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:" Colossians 3:22 Also: Titus 2:9

📖 We are to obey authorities over us. This includes teachers, police, and government. Not obeying the authority over us is disobeying God.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account ..."

Hebrews 13:7 Also: Titus 3:1
However, when the commands and laws of the government or our authority contradict what God commands us to do; we should always obey God first.

"... We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

📖 The local church should obey God's commands.

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ ..." Eph. 5:24

Again, no one wants to obey anyone. It is a very difficult thing to do. God, however, has laid out a hierarchy of leadership that will work. We may not like the order of people that we are to submit to, but it is God's plan. His plan works. Our way of whom we obey usually does not.

God's commands are for our benefit. Father knows best! As Israel told Joshua, after they learned the truth the hard way, so should our heart's desire be: *"... The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey." Joshua 24:24*

"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."

— George Elliot