

Lifestyle of Obedience, A

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 8:28-30.

B. We have been predestined to be conformed to the likeness of Christ- this is the good that God is working toward. (v.29)

C. Christ's character in regard to obedience is that he delights to do God's will and consistently pleased God in his actions. (Psalm 40:8; John 8:29; 1 Corinthians 4:5)

II. God wants to bring us to delight in his will and to do his will consistently.

A. He wants us to make progress toward being more like Christ and being transformed into his likeness from our hearts. (2 Corinthians 3:18ff, Romans 12:2)

1. God is more interested in our character than in our conduct, though character will produce conduct and vice versa.

2. A person can do the right thing for the wrong reason. Motivation matters.

B. Transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. (Psalm 119:33-37)

III. We have the responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to change us. (Romans 12:2)

A. We must expose ourselves to the word of God and change our values, though we will never be free from struggling with temptation. (Ephesians 4:23; Hebrews 1:9; Galatians 5:17)

1. To change your values, change your input. (Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

2. Meditate on God's word as often as possible so that you can apply it to your real life situations. (Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 15:4)

IV. There are two words involved in obedience: discipline and dependence.

A. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and to give us the strength to obey in the moment.

B. We also practice discipline by choosing to obey on a consistent basis.

V. The proof of Christ's lordship in our lives is obedience and obedience is the proof our love for Christ. (Luke 6:46; John 14:21ff)

Application questions:

1. In point IV, Jerry talks about how we either tend to let go of our responsibility in our own transformation or we tend to rely on our own strength to bring about our transformation. He states that both attitudes are pitfalls. Which tends to be your natural pitfall? How can you either rely more on Christ's strength or take greater responsibility to practice discipline?

2. Think about the "input" that is currently influencing your values. Is it encouraging you toward the things God values? If not, where could you find good input to replace your current input?

3. What are some practical ways that you can begin to meditate more on the Bible?
