

“To Obey Is Better than Sacrifice”

1 Sam. 15:22, 23

Introduction:

- A. The Lord’s Command to Saul (v. 3)
- B. Saul’s disobedience (v. 9)
- C. The Lord’s reaction to Saul’s disobedience (vv. 22, 23)
- D. Let us notice three reasons why obedience is so important:

I. Obedience Is the Result of Faith.

- A. Faith is essential to pleasing God (Heb. 11:6)
- B. Faith and obedience are “siamese twins” (Rom. 10:16; 1:5; 16:26)
- C. Obedience is essential to a living faith.
 - 1. Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:14-26)
 - 2. Some great examples of a living faith (Heb. 11:4, 5, 7, 17)
- D. How can one believe in God and not do what he is told to do?

II. Obedience Is a Proof of Our Love.

- A. The “great commandment” (Matt. 22:36-40).
 - 1. Each love involves responsibilities.
 - 2. One generation taught “free-love” (love without rules) for God next “free-love” for others.
- B. Love and commandment keeping (John 14:15, 21, 23)
 - 1. It is not enough to *say* we love Jesus (1 John 3:18)
 - a. Say is nice, but proving it by actions is better.
 - b. Ill. Letter to lady friend – “P. S. See you Sunday if doesn’t rain.”
 - 2. Love keeps commands from being burdensome (1 John 5:3 nkjv)

III. Obedience Is Necessary to Salvation.

- A. Jesus is the great example of obedience (John 6:68; Heb. 5:8,9).
- B. It is not enough to *claim* to do things in His name, but *truly* do things in His name.
 - 1. Many invoke *Lord’s* name into *their* works (Matt. 7:21-23; cf. Luke 6:46)
 - 2. Building upon sand versus building upon rock (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - a. Both worked – built houses.
 - b. Only one’s work survived test of judgment – the one that did what Lord said.
- C. Obedience is necessary to freedom from sin. (Rom. 6:16-18).
 - 1. Jesus showed his love by dying for us (Rom. 5:8).
 - 2. We imitate his sacrifice in baptism (Rom. 6:3,4)

Conclusion:

- A. God has never permitted any substitute for obedience.
 - 1. Remember: “To obey is better than sacrifice.”
 - 2. Prayer, praise, nor good works can replace obedience.
- B. Do you believe? Do you love God? If so, then you will be willing to obey His commands today.