Obedience That Passes The Test

2 Cor. 2:1-9

Introduction:

A. Background of text (cf. 1 Cor. 5).

B. Analysis of text.

1. Corinthians had repented of failure correct problem over immoral man.
2. Immoral man had repented - needed forgiving.
3. Paul had two-fold purpose in writing.
   a. To correct the mess in the church.
   b. To test the church's willingness to obey in all things.

C. One lesson of text: God expects whole-hearted obedience in all things.

1. Love with all we have. (Mt. 22:37)
2. Love demands obedience. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3)

D. Another text outlines 3 tests of our obedience (Phil. 2:12-16).

Discussion:

II. Are We Willing Obeay At All Times? (v. 12).

A. Not just when it painless.

1. Emotional pain.
   a. Personal ties (Mt. 10:37)
   b. Consequences of repentance. (Lk. 19:8; Ezra 10:1-3).
2. Economic hardship. (Mt. 19:22).


III. Are We Willing To Obey In All Things. (v. 14)

A. Some pass the test.

1. Abraham. (Gen. 22:12)
2. Corinthians. (2 Cor. 2:7-9).

B. Some fail the test.

1. King Saul. (1 Sam. 15:10-24).
2. Rich Young Ruler. (Mt. 19:16ff).

C. Would we pass or fail?

1. First principles - some or all?
2. Worship - some or all?
3. General conduct.
   a. Scriptural religious service - questionable morals and ethics.
   b. Church duties - not domestic, civic, etc. or vise versa.

IV. Are We Willing To Obey In All Places. (v. 15)

A. Easy to attend servies when surrounded by attending people.
B. Easy to be modest surrounded by a decent people.
C. Easy to be pure (in word and deed) surrounded by a pure people.
D. Easy to demand high standards for children surrounded by parents that do so.
E. Easy to control self (temper, tongue, passion) among non provocative people.
F. Easy to be faithful surrounded by faithful people.
G. But, test comes when surrounded by crooked and perverse people.

Conclusion:

A. Our God is a demanding God! - Expecting complete willing obedience at all times.
B. Our God is as forgiving as he is demanding. (1 John 2:1; 2 Pet. 3:9).
   1. If sinner will repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38).
   2. If erring will repent, confess and pray. (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).