

GRACE OBEDIENCE

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Obedience emanates from love. Without love obedience is not possible because it is born out of a celebrated and nourished relationship. For instance, when God declared to the Israelites that He should be their God and they were His people the covenant had been established. Moreover, authority and obedience are inseparable. As followers of Christ, our obedience affirms our belongingness to the grace of God. Following His laws is our way of showing our love and acknowledging His authority. "If you love me, you will obey my commandments" (John 14:15).

Authority and compassion are marks of true obedience

1. True authority is rooted on love.

- 1.1. Authority comes from the word author. Jesus is full of great authority, but his life was a complete obedience to the Father.
- 1.2. Authority of Jesus is coming from his obedience to the Father.
- 1.3. Authority of Jesus is rooted on love and connected to the will of the Father.
- 1.4. A person who has great authority but has not been obedient is in great spiritual danger.
- 1.5. An obedient person who has no authority over anyone is equally in great spiritual danger.
- 1.6 Authority is not based on fear because of punishment.
- 1.7 Authority is not based on anger but compassion.
- 1.8 Compassionate people celebrate true Authority.

What is obedience all about?

1. **Our obedience to God is a way to our salvation. Who can truly obey? These are the people -**
 - 1.1 who are ready to listen to each other's needs.
 - 1.2 who attentively listen to the pain,

anger and sadness of another person's misery.
1.3 who never bear grudges to anyone and know how to listen.

1.4 who listen silently and can hear even the unspoken words.

1,5 who feel sweetness in their heart, though, at times it is hard to obey the will of the Father.

2.0 A good exemplar is the leader of the community. Soar (Sis) Techie is a good exemplar of obedience, for she follows everything that God commands her to do for the community. On our end, we begin to listen to her, for we perfectly know her words (teachings) and her authority are from the Lord.

In addition, let us then learn from Jesus and pray to teach us to obey Him with great love so that the love of God abounds in our community.

Conclusion:

The law of a Christian is the total obedience of God's commands and authority rooted in love. We live to love. Aside from love, one of the most important factors in obeying Him is by listening and understanding His teachings. "Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them" (John 14:23). At times, it is equally important to understand the signs He is providing us. Finally, our obedience to our Father bears fruit of love, freedom and joy.

Reflection:

1. Do you feel the sense of belongingness to Jesus?
2. Do you live your obedience with authority?
3. How's your relationship with your family and friends? Is it broken because you fail to listen to them attentively?

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