

Study A: Understanding the Call to Obedience

"If you love Me, you will obey what I command."
John 14:15

Why: Reasons for the study

- The concept of obedience to Christ is often lost in the church today and thought to be necessary only for those who are really serious about their relationship with Christ.
- The fact that a changed life is a result of the gospel is often dismissed/ignored.
- It is only by God's sanctifying grace that we have the ability to obey Him.
- It is important to understand the biblical concepts of how to develop a life characterized by obedience to Christ.

What: Principles to grasp

- Obedience is not only commanded but is the evidence of our love for Christ.
- God will never give us a command that He does not empower us to obey.
- Pride is the root cause of sin and is the primary hindrance to obedience.
- Humility is necessary to empower the Holy Spirit to work through us in developing a life of obedience.
- There are commands we can obey in the flesh.
- We tend to ignore the commands, which can't be performed in the flesh and/or excuse our disobedience to them.
- We must take the first steps to experience God's power to obey the difficult commands.
- Obedience is the path to an abundant life, no matter what our circumstances are.

How: Path to a changed life

- To become aware of the need for obedience in their daily lives
- To begin to take the risks of obedience that they would not attempt in the flesh
- To begin to experience the intersection of God's grace with their obedience

Tips: Helpful ideas

- This study is an overview/introduction to many concepts that will be further developed in the rest of the studies.
- Though you want your disciples to begin to be aware of their pride and their lack of humility, don't expect all the dots to connect at this point.
- Have your disciple mark the descriptions of pride that are true of them.
- Introduce *The Root Cause of All Sin* diagram with them. This will be developed further in *Understanding Pride and Rebellion* in Part Two. Note: This diagram is a major key to understanding the source of sin (pride) and its manifestations.

Tools and additional resources:

- *Root Cause of All Sin* diagram and teaching video
- *Love Motivated Obedience* diagram and teaching video
- *The Chase: Pursuing Holiness in Your Everyday Life*, by Jerry Bridges
- *Streams in the Desert, Volume 1*, by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman – This book of daily devotionals is very encouraging to someone in difficult suffering circumstances.