



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 22, 2017 Obey God's Word and Appointed Authorities

Scripture: John 14:15

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

For a follower of Christ, to love radically is fundamental and essential to one's life. Such love is pervasive and extreme. It goes deep to impact everything. But it can only be expressed if one has truly been transformed by the radical love of Jesus.

If we truly love God, we will meditate and obey His commandments (**John 14:15; Psalm 119:97**). Obeying God's Word is not only information as well. If we truly love God, it will overflow with our love for others. How can we love God whom we cannot see, if we cannot love others whom we can see?

To practice radical love is to obey God's Word and His appointed authorities. This includes our parents, spiritual mentors, teachers, employers, etc. Let us remember two principles as we obey God's Word and His appointed authorities.

OUR VIEW OF GOD IMPACTS OUR DAILY LIFE

Do we see God as holy and highly exalted? Do we also see Him as gracious, loving, merciful and tender? Our view of God, may it be right or wrong, will show in how we live our daily lives.

An example of this can be seen with the 12 spies sent into the Promised Land. All of them saw the same place, the same people, and the same plantations in Canaan. Yet not all of them anchored their response to God's promise and His commandment to take the land. Despite seeing a land flowing with milk and honey, only two of them held on to the promise of God. The rest focused on the trouble they will face. (**Numbers 13:1-2; 17-20; 23-33**)

All 12 spies saw the same miracles of God in their escape from Egypt i.e. the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, pillars of fire at night and clouds in the day, manna from heaven etc. They have all experienced the same radical love from God. After all those miracles, all of them should have believed nothing was impossible with God. But ten of the spies focused on the problem and made excuses and exaggerated reports to the people of Israel (**Numbers 13:30-33**).

In many ways, this story in the Bible is a reflection of many Christians today.

OBEDIENCE WILL ALWAYS BRING BLESSING

Obedience to God will always bring blessing (**Deuteronomy 6:1-3**). This is not prosperity gospel. They blessing may not be in the form and timing that we like. This does not mean we will all live wealthy for a hundred years. But one thing for sure is that when we obey, there will be blessing.

God is a rewarder, but we do not obey just for the rewards. Our obedience to God should be a by-product of our view of God. In fact, obeying God is in itself a joy and a blessing already. The blessing after this blessing is a bonus.

God revealed to Joshua the secret of success: ***this book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*** Joshua 1:8

The word “prosperous” means we are blessed to bless others with what we have, and the idea behind “success” is that we will act wisely based on the principles of God and live a life that we will not regret.

Disobedience is infectious like a deadly virus, (**Numbers 14:1-4**) so we must be careful about associating with people who are always complaining, negative, divisive and gossiping.

Opposition, rebellion and disobedience are usually directed toward leaders. But ultimately they are oppositions against God. ***Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is not authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God.*** Romans 13:1-4

This is not blind obedience. The Bible also does not say that the people in authorities will be perfect. But our view of God’s sovereignty will impact our attitudes and actions towards them. Because disobedience is usually fueled by fear, God told Joshua, he will be successful if he lives according to His Word.

The Israelites had instead a pattern of disobedience. Let their pattern be a warning and an example for us so that we may not end up like them and so that we can examine ourselves and that we may experience the blessing of obedience and avoid the curse of disobedience.

Many times, the challenge of obedience is that we’re forced to go against the flow of the crowd. Our obedience may make us unpopular at that moment, but we can also trust that obedience to God has it’s rewards. On the flipside, disobedience will have its consequences and may affect others as part of the collateral damage of those consequences (**Numbers 14:20-28**). Hopefully, knowing the consequences of disobedience will help make us rethink and realize the high cost of disobeying God.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. What is God’s love language according John 14:15? Are you responding to God’s commandments in the way that He wants you to?
2. What is your view of God? How does it affect your response to His Word? How does it affect the way you respond to your family and dgroup members?
3. Are you having trouble submitting to the authority of your spouse? Of your parents? Of your employer? Of your teacher? Of your dgroup leader? Of your church leaders?
4. What do you commit to do this week in order to continue to practice Radical Love?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.