

WHY OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS?

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

Who are we in Christ?

- 1 Peter 2:9-10 We are: A chosen people, A royal priesthood, A holy nation, God's special possession
- Before we were chosen people, or a royal priesthood, or a holy nation, or God's special possession we were all in the dark. It was only by God's grace that we were brought into the light. We have been set *apart, distinguished, sanctified and consecrated*. We are a holy nation set apart for God. . . and this should be evident in our lives.

A Promise Made, A Promise Fulfilled

- In Genesis 15 we see God's promise to Abraham that although his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years, God will not forget them and will bring them out of that nation with many possessions.
- This promise was fulfilled through Moses, who brought the Israelites out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.
- In Exodus 3, God tells us who He is and reminding us of His relationship with us. He tells us that He is the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob. Later in Exodus 20, He again reminds us of His involvement in the life of the Israelites when He says ***I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and the house of slavery.***
- the Ten Commandments given to the Israelites after they had been set free. It was given to them so that when they entered the Promised Land they would have a pattern to follow so that they could be set apart, identified as God's people.

Why should we obey the Commandments?

1. We distinguish ourselves as God's people
 - Obeying the commandments of God identifies us as God's people but it is not in our obedience that we become children of God.
 - The purpose of the law is to make us aware of sin. (Galatians 3:19-20)
 - No one can be justified, or can go to heaven just because of his obedience to the law since God requires perfection, so unless we can keep the law 100% of the time.
 - Only Jesus can give justification. Only Jesus can give forgiveness.
2. We prove we love God
 - John 15:10-11 says ***If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.***
 - 1 John 5:3; John 14:15
 - God's commands are there not to restrict us but rather to liberate us.
 - Remember God's love language is OBEDIENCE.
3. We become effective witnesses for Jesus.

- Let us make an impact not because we have to but rather let us make an impact because it is from the heart.
- God’s commandments should be in our heart, and our actions an outflow of our desire to please God.
- Only those freed from the bondage of sin can live this out. Only those who are in Christ Jesus are forgiven, set free and declared children of God because it is only in Christ Jesus that the full requirements of the law of perfect obedience have been fulfilled. We cannot make it on our own (Romans 8:1-4)
- 1 Peter 2:12 tells us ***Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.***





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. Who are the characters in the passage? What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. What is your understanding of the importance of the Ten Commandments?
3. Of the 3 reasons cited above why we should obey the Commandments, which do you think is the most important?

APPLICATION:

Patiently 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.

	<p>Personal: Is there a sin that you continue to struggle with? What is your light-bulb moment, your Aha! Moment when you were reading through Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5? Have you really been set free by Jesus or are you still trying to earn your freedom by obeying the law?</p>
	<p>Family: Do you and your family talk about obedience to God’s commandments? Do you as a family intentionally distinguish yourselves for Jesus?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do the people around you see Jesus in your life? Are you able to stand up and be a follower of Jesus inspite of and despite of possible discrimination?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)</p>

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.