

Dgroup Discussion Guide for March 26, 2017

Obey with Joy

Scripture: Exodus 20

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

At the beginning of the chapter, God reminds us of who He is and what He has done. This is important in every relationship because when rules are given without prior relationship, it will lead to rebellion. When there is a good relationship, rules are easier to accept.

The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God, then the next 6 deal with our relationship with others. The 10 commandments are aptly summarized in Matthew 22:37 which says ***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.***

Why did God have to give us commandments?

John 15:10-11 ***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.*** Jesus Himself modeled obedience and because of this He expects us to likewise OBEY out of love. Jesus is teaching us that our motivation to obey God is LOVE.

What does it mean to HONOR?

The figurative meaning is to give weight to someone or to grant a person a position of respect and even authority in one's life. Although it depicts an internal attitude of respect, courtesy and reverence, this SHOULD BE accompanied by appropriate attention or even obedience. Honor without such action is incomplete; it is lip service. God the Father, for example is honored when people do the things that please Him. Parents are likewise honored through the obedience of their children.

Who are we to honor?

God (Joshua 7:19); Parents (Exodus 20:12); Husband (1 Peter 3:7); Wife (Ephesians 5:33); Authorities (1 Peter 2:13); Everyone (1 Peter 2:17); Pastors (Hebrews 13:17)

The 5th commandment is the only commandment that includes a promise. (Ephesians 6:1-3) We are promised a long life. In Deuteronomy 21, we are told that when children are rebellious and disobedient, they are brought to the elders and is then stoned to death. On the other hand, in

Proverbs 17 we are told that obedient children are the crowns of grandparents and they bring glory to their parents.

There is a blessing in obedience. There is a blessing in honoring and obeying our fathers and mothers.

Honoring and respecting God and our parents should always be accompanied by obedience, otherwise this is mere lip service. Isaiah 29:13 further reminds us that our hearts if removed from God or is far away from God, even though we obey His commands this is still mere lip service since we do not obey with joy.

Malachi 1 reminds us that God only expects the best offering from us, offering the left overs is not pleasing to Him. We are sometime guilty of this as we only bring to God our left overs – our left over time, our left over tithes, our left over gratitude, our left over praises, our left over love. God should be the first recipient of all things in our life. He should be number one and therefore receive the best we have to offer.

When we obey, we must choose to obey with joy. Because in the attitude of our hearts lies how we truly honor God. We should learn to intentionally obey and honor our parents in obedience to God's commands.

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.

Points to reflect on:

1. Do we honor and obey our parents with joy?
2. Do we obey God with joy?
3. What kind of offering do we bring before God's table? Is He the first recipient of all we have?

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.