

Obedience of Faith!

Ro 16:25-27 (Topical Message)



Discipline as a Child

I got in a lot of trouble as a kid in the 70's (My sisters and Mother could tell you tons of stories if you ever got them alone in a conversation). **[My mother used to tell Laura, I hope Robert has a son that like him so he knows what it was like to raise him – I feel sorry for you Laura if this happens, I don't feel sorry for Rob].** I was always getting grounded by my parents. The big one for me was to be home by 5:00 for dinner. My Dad got home from work by 4:30 every day, and my mom prepared dinner by 5:00. I was always late because being a kid growing up in the 70's, I basically roamed the neighborhood with my friends, riding bikes, going to the ball field, stopped in to other friends' homes (I had about 10 friends within a 2–3-mile radius of my home). I even crawled in the SEWERS to have fun! There were no video games, or cell phones, or even great quality TVs in the 70's to kill time. I could only watch a black & white TV.

I always lost track of time being out and about!

I was always late for dinner. I couldn't keep track of the time. So, my parents bought me a wrist watch. That was great, except I didn't look at the watch to see the time. I actually used to take it off because I didn't want to break it and many times forgot where I left it. I also lost it a few times. But after several weeks of being late and being disobedience to the dinner rule, my parents grounded me (10 or 11 years old). ***My punishment was the dreaded no TV for a week.*** Boy that was a difficult punishment since that's all I did at night in those days.

So, the idea of “***Obedience to a Rule***”, makes me think of the times when I didn’t obey the house rules and the punishment I received from my Parents.

When I think about “***Obedience to God***” my mind also immediately goes to the idea of not measuring up and punishments that I experienced as a child. But is that true? Does God punish? The Answer is No! **God never punishes his Children, He disciplines them.** *Discipline corrects, shows errors in behavior, brings to light area of unbelief in God’s promises, or one’s identity in Christ (areas of wrong thinking).*

I often say that learning things in life the hard way is by God's discipline (Parents Discipline also), but there is an easier way that doesn't involve discipline. **And that is “Obedience that is from Faith”.**

This is what I want to look at today. **Obedience that is from faith.** The foundation of an “Obedience of Faith” is found in Romans 16:25-26. As we unpack these verses, **today we will learn 3 steps to an “Obedience of Faith”:** Thus, the title of my message today!

Steps:

- 1. Love for Him [leads to]**
- 2. Dependence on Him [results in]**
- 3. Obedience to Him**

Romans 16:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith; ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever.
Amen.

Context is Important

How often have you ever heard a sermon that starts with the last verses of a book of the bible? That's what I have done today. Roman's 16:25-27 are the last 3 verses in the book of Romans.

These last verses of a book are a summary and concluding remarks of the doctrines and ideas of what was written by the Apostle Paul.

The book of Romans is the most complete book in the Bible that explains all the major doctrines in the Christian faith in great detail. Amen! It is a great study and I encourage all to read this book prayerfully asking the Lord to reveal His Gospel of Grace and the foundations underneath it supporting it.

So, I'm starting this message at the end of the book of Romans 16:25-27 because Paul explains what was written and what it's supposed to accomplish.

This accomplishment is an "**Obedience of Faith**" of the book's readers.

a. Established

Romans 16:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

God is able to establish, make strong, and strengthen men who believe.

Brothers & Sisters – Paul says God is able. Do you believe God is able to establish you according to the Gospel?

Gospel – ***Christ died and rose for the forgiveness of man's sins***

b. Made Known

²⁶but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been **made known** to all the nations,

Gospel – ***Made know to all Nations***

c. Leading to Obedience of Faith

leading to obedience of faith; ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Let's now look at the steps (Underneath the Gospel) that lead to an obedience of faith:

Step:

1. Love for Him [leads to]

I have found over the last 30 years in ministry that if man doubt's God loves for him, he doesn't *go to Him, pray to Him, rest in Him or seek Him* (*Because He feels Distant and unacceptable to God*).

As an unbeliever, Man is separated from God, but God always loves Man!

As a believer, Man is never separated from God, God always loves Man, and God is in Man (Holy Spirit / Christ)!

It is no wonder the Evil One works over time distorting the Love of God to create doubt in the minds of the unsaved, and the saved.

God's love is unconditional (*Greek Agape*) – This means God's Love for You and Me isn't based on our sinful behavior – its unconditional!

Scanning through the Book of Romans what do we see about Gods Love towards us and our Love for Him as a *1st step leading to an “Obedience of Faith”*.

God's Love Towards Us

Romans 5:8 (NASB)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God's love for mankind is so tremendous that He sent His Son (Jesus Christ) to die on a cross for the forgiveness of man's sins.

God provided a way for man to become Spiritually Alive after being dead in trespasses from the sin of Adam in the Garden.

God didn't have to make a way, but did, because He loves man. Christ dying on the Cross and Rising on the 3rd day demonstrates God's Love for man because God sent Him to the earth to be crucified.

Many of us don't realize that when Christ was crucified on the cross, as a believer you were crucified with Him. And better yet, you were risen with Him to newness of life. Amen.

Our old man was crucified with Christ – believer you are a new person who is “In Christ”

God's Love in Us

Romans 5:5b (NASB)

^{5b} the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

God's love has been poured out within the hearts of all who believe. Its through the Holy Spirit who was given to man. Amen!

God's Love is in a believer's heart – Amen! The heart is the same as the soul. The Love of God is in us, and the love of God flows through us to the world around us.

The world sees God in man when man unconditionally loves

God's Love Never Changes

Romans 8:35, 38-39 (NASB)

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing will ever separate man from the love of Christ. No circumstances in life, or wrong choices made, nor sin committed, nor anything will separate man from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God's love is when understood, rested in and reciprocated back in thankfulness and gladness is the 1st step in an "Obedience of Faith".

Are you thankful with words that can't be described that you are loved by God and have spiritual life in Christ?

Are you thankful that you are never in and out of the love of God?

Are you thankful that God will always love you when you screw things up?

Are you thankful you can as a finite Human Being experience the Infinite love of God and feel and rest in the emotion of being loved?

Are you thankful that you are still loved when you don't feel loved?

Are you thankful that you have been risen with Christ to newness of life and have the capacity to be filled with the love of God?

Are you thankful you can experience the Love of God?

Are you thankful you can overflow with the Love of God?

Are you thankful you can love your neighbor as yourself fulling the law?



*Do You Love God?
Do You Love Christ?
God Loves You!*

Step:

2. Dependence on Him [results in]

What is Dependence? Definition (Merriam / Websters) - the quality or state of being influenced or determined by or subject to another. Synonym – Reliance, Trust

Dependence on something, is also having faith in something:

Dependance = Reliance = Trust = Faith

Romans 1:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Paul in the beginning of Romans says that he is not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God to salvation (Jew & Greek = non-Jew). God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith – The righteous (Saved) man shall live by faith (Trust, Reliance, Dependance on)

God loves you, and a believer Loves God – Dependence on Him is the natural outcome of this man's Love for God.

Saved man should live by total dependance on Christ (God) as his source of life: Amen!

Step:

3. Obedience to Him

Dependence on Him completes the connection to obedience to Him. When the Christian depends on Christ [God] obedience naturally flows in the Christians life. Jesus tells us He and the Father are one!

John 10:30 (NASB)

³⁰ "I and the Father are one."

And that His will is equal to the Fathers will

Matthew 26:39 (NASB)

³⁹ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

God & Christ are in perfect harmony and are one by their nature. Both are God and connected to each other (2 of the 3 Triune God). As a Christian in a physical body, dependance on Christ [God] is the connection that expresses God through the Christian being one like Jesus and the Father. Obedience comes from dependance (wills being in harmony) and is expressed through the man. Amen!

This isn't an external conformity, but an internal connection that is expressed outwardly by Obedience.

Just like Christ and the Father are one. The Christian and God are also one in expression by dependence.

A close-up photograph of two hands forming a circular frame against a blurred green background of leaves and sunlight. The hands are positioned with the thumbs pointing upwards and the fingers forming a continuous loop.

Love for Him

[leads to]

Dependence on Him

[Results in]

Obedience to Him

Ro 16:25-27

Obedience of Faith!

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