

The Happiness of Obedience

(John 13:17)
6-15-2025

Introduction:

John 13:17
If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

This verse contains God's formula for happiness (blessedness) –
<u>Knowing</u> what's right
Plus <u>doing</u> what's right
Equals <u>happiness</u>

**** Why does Obedience bring you happiness?***

1. **Obedience pleases God (when God is pleased you will be pleased also)**
   Mt 17:5; Joh 8:29

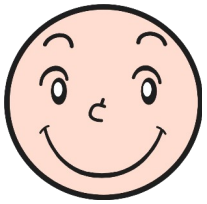
2. **Obedience results in spiritual prosperity & success**
   Joshua 1:8

3. **Obedience to God's truth, opens the door of your heart to receive more of God's truth**
   John 7:17

4. **Obedience makes God's truth memorable, practical & beneficial**
   James 1:22-25

5. **Obedience avoids the high cost of disobedience**

6. **Obedience pays the highest rewards in the Future**
   Mt 25:23



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"<u>If</u> ye know" – (ei) = if, or since. ""used with the indicative introducing a 1st class condition. It carries the implication that in fact they did now them" (Morris, cited by Reinecker, p.215)

"<u>if</u> ye do" = this "if" is ean (introduces a conditional clause which has less certainty" (ibid)

"Know" – oidate = to have a clear & full perception of truth due to the indwelling Spirit of Jesus Christ (not as ginosko which generally points to a progress in attaining knowledge)

"these things" – The Servant attitude of Jesus Christ as demonstrating in his willingness to do the most humbling of tasks for others.
"Foot-washing" results in the <u>HAPPINESS of obedience</u> (v.17)

"happy" (makarios) – Blessed; from a root word (mak) meaning "large, lengthy" found also in makros, "long," mekos, "length," (Vine, p.70). A huge, big blessing is the idea of the word. A large blessing that would put a big smile on one's face and a deep joy in one's heart (cp. Jesus' use of the word in the Beatitudes, Matthew 5)

This verse contains God's formula for happiness (blessedness) –

<u>Knowing</u> what's right
Plus <u>doing</u> what's right
Equals <u>happiness</u>

Just <u>knowing</u> what's right does not bring happiness; nor does rare occasional <u>doing</u>. But continual obedience is the well-spring of blessing.

"do" – to practice; not just a one time obedience, but a lifestyle.

If you <u>know</u> the truth and <u>do</u> the truth, you have found the secret to real joy.

Depression comes to those whose focus is on self. Get your attention on the needs of others, and you will see your problems melt away (as you reap for what you sow).

Why does Obedience bring you happiness?

1. Obedience pleases God (when God is pleased you will be pleased also)

Mt 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, **in whom I am well pleased**; hear ye him.

This "bright cloud" overshadowed (enveloped) them - while the words were in Peter's mouth, suddenly this extremely brilliant cloud (like a white fog) falls upon them, sending a fearful feeling through their "spines" (Lk. 9:34), and a voice (which Peter never forgot - II Pet. 1:17, 18) began to speak out of the cloud.

The voice of God the Father said: "This (one) [not the other two - Moses and Elijah) is my beloved (Eph. 1:6) Son" -- The Father proclaims the UNIQUENESS of the Son! Jesus was not a mere prophet (like Moses and Elijah).

"In whom I am well pleased" - As Jesus testified - "I do always those things that please Him" (Jn. 8:29).

These are almost the identical words the Father spoke at Christ's baptism (Mt. 3:17).

Joh 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him**.

I do always those things that please Him" - His works were the Father's works 100% of the time.

Jesus was never independent of the Father; rather, every single thing He did, the Father did because the Father was with Him.

In eternity past and up to the present, everything the Son did was God's doing because of the oneness between the Father and the Son.

We were created for God's pleasure:
Revelation 4:11 - Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

We were adopted into God's family for God's pleasure:
Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will"

When we are obedient, we bring God pleasure:
Philippians 2:13 - For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
2Thessalonians 1:11 - Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2. Obedience results in spiritual prosperity & success

Joshua 1:8
This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for **then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

3. Obedience to God's truth, opens the door of your heart to receive more of God's truth

John 7:17
If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Why do people reject Christ and His message today? Reason: Because they have rejected God (the true God) and His will. They insist on their will, their ways, and are not surrendered completely to God's will and ways.

Christ's doctrines were not private opinions, but divine decrees.

"Jesus explained that His doctrine came from the Father. He had already made it clear that He and the Father were one in the works that He performed (Jn. 5:17) and in the judgment that He executed (Jn. 5:30). Now He claimed that His teachings also came from the Father, and He would make that astounding claim again (Jn. 8:26, 38)." (Wiersbe, p. 316).

In order for God to teach you anything, you must be willing to do His will. Those who come to full surrender to God will discern the true Word of God. Various levels of understanding are due to various levels of obedience to God.

Those who obey Him most, know Him best!

For the people Jesus addressed, those who were really surrendered to God would come to know who Christ really was.

4. Obedience makes God's truth memorable, practical & beneficial

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being **not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed**.

"Doer" - present tense = continual action. (a habit of life).

It's easier to know what is right than to do what is right.

To learn and not to do is not to learn. Unless a message is acted upon, it is never learned.

Illus. - Spiritual obesity. Fat and lazy Christians (who know everything and do nothing).

"Arm-chair Quarterbacks - have all the answers but never play the game.

Ex. - The failure in Christian schools today is that the kids have no outlet to live what they have learned.

V. 22 "Deceiving" = to misjudge, miscalculate. To miss the point.

You miss the whole point of God's word if you know and don't do. This is the height of foolishness.

Deceived because he thought he really benefitted.

The gospel should have changed your life! We learn truth to live it! Not admire it, worship it, etc.

V. 23 - "Hearer" = an attender at a lecture (ex. Acts 17; Paul at Mars HIll - Greeks wanted only to hear new things).

Applic. : Going to church is not to see and hear a performance. It is to equip you to serve. You are the performers!

"A man beholding" = Gk. word for male in contrast to female. Women are more sensitive by nature. See flaws more easily. (spend more time in front of the mirror)

The Bible is like a mirror. It reflects defects, needs, areas that need change.

A hearer just likes only his ears tickled. II Tim. 4:3

V. 23, 24 - One who knows the Word but does not obey it is like:
1. a man who is lost while holding a map in his hand
2. a man who knows what is wrong with his health but does nothing about it.

Why are some people content to hear the Word and not do it?

1. They are self-deceived (v. 22). Illus. of intellectuals who lack common sense (not practical). They are deceived into thinking that knowing equals righteousness.

> This is not true! Ex. The devils believe (know about God) and tremble (Ja. 2:19).
> It's your actions that will one day be judged (these are undeniable).

2. They are careless.

--They take too quick a look (v. 24)
--They look without any intention of changing

Or he may:
--look with someone else in mind
--look with good intentions but never get around to doing them.

However, the DOER…

a. He is a serious reader.

> "Looketh into" = to bend over and look intently. To stoop down to see exactly. To examine it minutely. (ex. Bereans).
>
> "Looketh" - the word was used in secular Greek when referring to those who were bent over looking out their windows at someone else's party.

b. He is a steady reader.

> "Continueth" = remain, stay

c. He is a submissive reader.

> "Doer" - He puts it into practice.

The way to prevent forgetfulness is by practicing what you know. We remember very little of what we read, a little more of what we hear, a little more of what we see . . . most of what we practice.

Blessing is only in doing!

(the reward comes only to the doer)

Ex. of learning to ride a bike, drive a car, play trumpet, play a sport, etc. -- You can read all the books you want; you don't gain the blessing of learning how until you do it!

5. Obedience avoids the high cost of disobedience

The Bible gives many examples of the disastrous consequences of disobedience.

Examples of the high cost of disobedience to God:

- Nadab & Abihu – strange fire (Lev.10:1-f)
- Achan – Joshua 6:18; 7:1-f;
- Moses – Num.20:10
- Eli's Sons Hophni & Phineas (I Sam 3:13)
- Lot's wife – Gen.19:26
- Uzzah – touched the ark (II Sam.6:6)
- "The man of God, who was disobedient to the word of the Lord" (I Kings 13:1-32)
- "The foolish man which built his house upon the sand" (Mt.7:26)

6. Obedience pays the highest rewards in the Future

Mt 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

1Co 3:14 If any man s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

John 13:17
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