“Obey What Jesus Says”

(“Keep My Commandments”)
(John 14:15, 21-24)
7-20-2025

Introduction:

What Specific Commands (Imperatives) does Jesus give to us in the Gospels?

**** We need to realize the importance of obeying the commands of Jesus Christ!***

I. *Obedience to Christ is* the <u>PROOF</u> of our <u>LOVE</u> (v.15, 21a)

II. *Obedience to Christ brings* the <u>PRESENCE</u> of the <u>LORD</u> (v.21b-23)

A. The Lord <u>LOVES</u> the obedient (v.21b)

B. The Lord <u>LIVES IN</u> the obedient (v.21c-23)

III. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* <u>NO LOVE</u> for Christ (v.24a)

IV. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* <u>NO REGARD</u> for God’s Word (v.24b)

“Obey What Jesus Says”

(“Keep My Commandments”)
(John 14:15, 21-24)
7-20-2025

Introduction:

What Specific Commands (Imperatives) does Jesus give to us in the Gospels?

**** We need to realize the importance of obeying the commands of Jesus Christ!***

I. *Obedience to Christ is* the _____ of our _____ (v.15, 21a)

II. *Obedience to Christ brings* the _____ of the _____(v.21b-23)

A. The Lord _____ the obedient (v.21b)

B. The Lord _____ the obedient (v.21c-23)

III. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* _____ for Christ (v.24a)

IV. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* _____ for God’s Word (v.24b)

“Obey What Jesus Says”

(“Keep My Commandments”)
(John 14:15, 21-24)
7-20-2025

Introduction:

John 14:15
If ye love me, keep my commandments.

"The Christian life is a life of principled, conscientious obedience to God's will as revealed in the Bible" A.N. Martin

Obedience is the submission of your will to someone else

What Specific Commands (Imperatives) does Jesus give to us?

Jesus Commands us to Wash the Feet of others
John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.

John 13:17
God’s Formula for Happiness:
“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

Jesus Commands us to Love one another
John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Jesus gives us many commands in the Gospels

Jesus Commands us to Believe on Him
John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me…

Jesus Commands us to Lay up Treasures in Heaven
Matthew 6:19 ¶ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Jesus Commands us to Not Worry about Worldly Needs
Matthew 6:25 ¶ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
Matthew 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Jesus Commands us to Persist in Prayer
Matthew 7:7 ¶ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Jesus Commands us to Pray in His Name
John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus Commands us to Pray with Faith
Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Jesus Commands us to Publicly Proclaim his Message
Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.
Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Jesus Commands us to Preach the Gospel
Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Jesus Commands us to Yoke up with Him and let Him be our teacher
Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Jesus Commands us to be ready for His Return
Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Jesus Commands us to Make Disciples
Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Jesus Commands us to be a Servant
Mark 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus Commands us to Forgive others
Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Jesus Commands us to beware of Covetousness

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Jesus Commands us to Search the Scriptures
John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Jesus Commands us to Judge Righteous Judgment
John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Jesus Commands us to Love our Enemies
Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Jesus Commands us to Abide in Him (remain in close fellowship with Him)
John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Two subjects are emphasized and woven together in vv. 15-26.

1) Obedience motivated by love
2) Comfort empowered by the Holy Spirit

In this message we will focus on obedience to Jesus Christ.

**** We need to realize the importance of obeying the commands of Jesus Christ!***

I. *Obedience to Christ is* the PROOF of our LOVE (v.15, 21a)

v. 15
"If ye love Me" – This clause is one of the great "if" clauses in John. Another one with a similar theme of obedience is John 13:17 -
If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

"Love" – *agapao* – a God-inspired, volitional, committed, sacrificial desire to please someone. Not mere mushy feelings, but a decision to please the Lord.

This love for Christ is. . .

1) A result of the new birth

2) A result of the in-workings of the Holy Spirit

3) A gift from God. "Love is of God."

4) Motivated by God's love for us. "We love Him because He first loved us."

The evidence of a love for Christ is not mere:

1) Warm emotions toward Him
2) Religious duties done in His name
3) Head knowledge of His Word

. . . But obedience to His Word!

Third class condition – "If you keep on loving" (present active subjunctive).

"Keep" –

T.R. – aorist imperative
N.U. – future active (you will keep)

"Keep" - *tareo* = two ideas:

--To guard (to hold on to and not let go; to protect; this idea of guarding His Word is used in Rev. 3:10 -
Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth)

--To obey (to fulfill; to carry out; to observe to do), as in Matthew 28:20

Both retention of our Lord's words and obedience to His words are taught by this word "keep" (v. 15, 21, 23).

"My commandments" –

"My" – Those commands issued directly by Jesus Christ (which would include the entire Word of God, but particularly the imperatives He gives in the Gospels).

"Commandments" – orders; binding imperatives; a divinely-given obligation (not optional, nor selective). A command is a "must do" situation.

[Note: Our Lord is not teaching us that obedience is the means to salvation, but the manifestation of salvation; not the root of salvation, but the fruit of salvation.]

Obedience is the fruit of love, which is the fruit of faith.

1. Faith ---------- 2. Love ---------- 3. Works

A question is asked on the Gatorade commercial: "Do you have it in you?" The same must be asked of you today regarding a love for Jesus Christ. "Do you have a love for Him in you?"

v. 21
"He that <u>hath</u>" – Obviously the prerequisite to obeying Christ's commands is to <u>have</u> them.

We possess them through His Word.

To merely "have" His commands is not the proof of love for Him – but obedience is.

"Keepeth" – A <u>present</u> tense participle implying an ongoing state of obedience, not a one-time decision (rather, a lifestyle characterized by obedience).

This does not mean that an act of disobedience demonstrates no love for Christ (although it does at that moment). But a lifestyle of obedience to His will demonstrates love for Him.

The degree of your love for Him will determine the degree of your obedience to Him. Much love equals much obedience.

"He it is" – emphatic demonstrative pronoun (*ekeinos*) – "that is the one who loves me" (Robertson, p. 254).

"He it is" – This one, this individual, this specific person [Note: Love and obedience is a personal decision; no one can do it for you.]

Although God loves "the world" in a general sense (Jn. 3:16), He has a particular, <u>special love</u> for those who love His Son.

Obedience to Jesus = love for Jesus. And love for Jesus results in God the Father's special love for you.

Does God love all men equally? No. He specially loves those who love His Son.

II. *Obedience to Christ brings* the <u>PRESENCE</u> of the <u>LORD</u> (v.21b-23)

A. The Lord <u>LOVES</u> the obedient (v.21b)

"And I will love him" – Jesus has a special love reserved for those who obey Him.

Is His love earned by us? Is His love deserved by us?

No. Not His salvation love. The love that saves us is unearned and undeserved. Calvary's love is unmerited. The gift of God is a true <u>gift</u> (it is not deserved).

However, Jesus here speaks of a love which is a result of our obedience to Him.

"The unseen and risen Christ will be a real and spiritual presence to the obedience and loving believer" (Robertson, p. 254).

B. The Lord <u>LIVES IN</u> the obedient (v.21c-23)

v. 21
"I . . . will manifest Myself to him" – I will reveal or make myself known to him (not visually but actually; not existentially but spiritually; not tangibly yet intimately).

v. 22
One of Christ's disciples (Judas, not Iscariot, but Thaddaus or Lebbaus) wondered how Christ could reveal Himself to the individual who obeys Him and yet not to the rest of the world (he was obviously thinking of a visible manifestation)

v. 23
"Keep My words" - (*logon*) Not merely Christ's imperatives, but His words in general (the principles, precepts, and spiritual tasks He gave us).

"Abode" = dwelling or abiding place ((full residency). This term is related to the word "mansions" in John 14:2.

This abode is similar to what it means to be "filled with the Spirit." The one who submits (yields) to God's Word experiences the special <u>presence</u> of God.

This "abode" is an abode of fellowship. The abode of relationship begins at conversion, when you welcome Jesus Christ into your heart (Jn. 1:12). This abode goes over and above that.

This is the "abode" of Ephesians 3:17 – 19 -
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

This is the "abode" of Revelation 3:20, where Christ says to His Church:
Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Here Jesus is speaking of "a deeper relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit. Salvation means we are going to heaven, but submission means that heaven comes to us! This truth. . . is illustrated in the experiences of Abraham and Lot, recorded in Genesis 18 and 19. When Jesus and the two angels visited Abraham's tent, they felt right at home. They even enjoyed a meal, and Jesus had a private talk with Abraham. But our Lord did not go to Sodom to visit Lot, because He did not feel at home there. Instead, He sent the two angels." (Wiersbe, p. 353).

To live a disobedience life is to live an empty life. You have quenched and grieved God's Spirit by your disobedience, and He does not fill the life of those in rebellion.

III. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* NO LOVE for Christ (v.24a)

v. 23
"He that loveth me not" – present active articular participle – "the one who keeps on not loving Me" (Robertson, p. 254). (an unbeliever is in view)

v. 24
So that no one misses the point (of vv. 21-23), Jesus states it in the negative. Disobedience is motivated by absence of love for Christ.

Every time we disobey, we are demonstrating (at that moment) a lack of love for Christ.

The unsaved heathen demonstrate lack of love for Christ on a continual, ongoing basis.

Just as a child's disobedience demonstrates a lack of love for his parental authority, so a child of God's disobedience demonstrates a lack of love for his divine authority.

IV. *Disobedience to Christ signifies* NO REGARD for God's Word (v.24b)

"Keepeth not My sayings" – my words (*logous)*; the words were not merely Christ's but were the words of God the Father.

Disobedience to the word means no regard for the word.

We say, "We believe the Bible is the Word of God." The proof of that confession is in the dedication we give to doing what God says.

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
- 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)

James 1:22-25
But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. [23] 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: [24] For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. [25] 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.

CONCLUSION:

Do you love Christ when you are disobeying His command to:

--Love others (your neighbor, spouse, fellow Christian)?

--Keep yourself pure for Him?

--Preach the Gospel to every creature?

Etc. etc.

Is something missing in your life?

If unsaved: you will find the missing element of your life by finding Christ.

If saved: you will find the missing element of your life by obeying Christ.

True spiritual success and prosperity is found only in obedience to God's Word.

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.

Aren't you tired of an empty life? Are you longing for a greater fellowship with Christ?

Then begin doing all that He told you to do!