

Our Abiding is Connected to Our Obeying

Opening Discussion:

Why do Christians struggle to obey God?

How has God helped you grow in your obedience to him?

Class Review:

Jesus in John 15 offers us a path to experiencing His joy that our joy might be full. This path seems to be aspects of our lives which when present overflow (connect) one to another ending in abundant joy.

1. As God's children we are made to bear (much) fruit. 2. Our fruit bearing is possible as we abide (or remain) in God, who faithfully prunes us to increase our fruitfulness.

Goals for Today:

1. Reflect on how our abiding and obeying in scripture are inseparable pursuits in the lives of believers.
2. Consider what we lose and what we gain as we fail or succeed in our obedience.
3. Let God speak to us corporately through His Word and to let us speak with God through confession and prayer.

How is the New Covenant Different from the Old Covenant?

Hebrews 10:1–4

More info at: <https://www.gotquestions.org/old-covenant-vs-new-covenant.html>

What is the practical implication to my obedience to God's law?

What results of the New Covenant bring you joy?

Abiding and Obeying are Inseparable for the Believer

John 15:10,14

^[10] 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.

^[14] You are my friends if you do what I command you.

What is Jesus talking about when he speaks of what He commanded the disciples?

What are the commands of Jesus?

Matthew 22:37–40

Motivating the Will:

"The reason why obedience is the secret of abiding: obedience involves the will. We do not abide simply by having thoughts about God's will or even feelings about God's will. We abide when we obey God's will, and this means submitting our will. Of course, we ought to do the will of God from the heart, and we ought to be intelligent about it; but the important thing is doing it. No amount of thoughts in the mind and feelings in the heart can compensate for disobedience of the will.

Too many Christians settle for an intellectual experience. They study the Bible, learn facts and definitions, and try to explain doctrines; but they never obey what God tells them. Other believers have only an emotional experience: they try to generate and cultivate 'spiritual feelings' that help them 'enjoy the Lord'. While sincere emotion is certainly a part of the Christian life, it is not the only part.

We must realize that the will is the center of the Christian life. We obey God, not because we feel like it, but because it is the right thing to do. And we should graduate from obeying because we have to into obeying because we want to."

Warren Wiersbe – *Abide* pg. 47

To what extent would you agree or disagree with Wiersbe here?

Galatians 6:7–10

Can a believer harm their relationship with God?

We can quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19–24

We can hinder our prayers.

1 Peter 3:7

"So concerned is God that Christian husbands live in an understanding and loving way with their wives, that he "interrupts" his relationship with them when they are not doing so. No Christian husband should presume to think that any spiritual good will be accomplished by his life without an effective ministry of prayer. And no husband may expect an effective prayer life unless he lives with his wife "in an understanding way, bestowing honor" on her. To take the time to develop and maintain a good marriage is God's will; it is serving God; it is a spiritual activity pleasing in his sight."

(Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter*, 146)

We can grieve the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:29–32

We can fail to be a partner to God.

Mark 8:33-36

We can fail to draw near.

James 4:8-10

Hebrews 10:19-31

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Let God's Word Speak

1 John 1-5

Confess and Pray

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Next Week: Our Obeying is Connected to Our Loving