



Obey God Rather Than Man

Faced with a situation where you have to choose, what would be your choice? It is easy to say it now than during a time of hardship and pressure. The way to ensure that you choose to obey God rather than man is by preparing your heart betimes, not in the moment.

All believers need this revelation if we are going to change the world. One of the best stories that portray obeying God rather than man is the story of Peter; Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and Daniel. These guys were going to obey God at any expense.

We live in times where we need to be firmer on obeying God. Things and people around us are continuously telling us not to. The temptation to choose otherwise will be always available. We need to choose right.

Main Text: Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

- 1) This passage recounts the response Peter and other apostles gave when the religious leaders ordered them to cease preaching.
- 2) Christians are instructed to obey authorities (Romans 13:1–2; 1 Peter 2:13–14; Titus 3:1; Hebrews 13:17). The Word further instructs us to pray for those in power (1 Timothy 2:1–2; Romans 13:6–7).
- 3) BUT there are instances when government and human law contradicts God's clear commands in scripture. When faced with a choice between obeying human authorities and God, there should be no hesitation. God is our Ultimate Authority, and our values must align with His revealed Word.
- 4) We sometimes encounter pressure to affirm what the Bible condemns such as Same-sex marriage (Marriage) affirmation, gender confusion affirmation, Abortion affirmation, Homosexuality, Sex before marriage, not to preach the Word of God or Jesus, not to pray in Jesus' name (US), etc.

Obeying man of God over obeying God

This is another syndrome that is plaguing the church. There is pressure on the believers to obey the man of God, rather than God and His Word.

Proverbs 19:27 Cease, my son, to hear instruction *Only* to err from the words of knowledge.

Example:

A young lady came to me and shared a dilemma she was in. She was a faithful member of the local church where she served God and her pastor faithfully. A time came where she heard from the Lord to start her own fellowship, not a church though. She was transparent with her church leadership and the senior pastor letting them know what she was doing. The senior pastor was later not excited about her doing this. Here is one thing; from what she shared with me I know her heart was right, and she wanted to follow and honor the Lord, yet she was also concerned about her relationship with the church and her pastor and spiritual father, yet she wanted to follow the Lord. It is true that we cannot serve two masters. In one sense, it was shocking that she struggled with this decision—anyway she wanted to obey the Lord.

When she came to me, I encourage her to follow and obey the Lord. God ought to be true and every man a liar (Romans 3:4). She obeyed the Lord and she experienced instant peace and relief. We need to set our hearts to obey the Lord—not man. I also encourage her to speak well of the church and pastor even send him an offering.

- a) One thing is true if we live a godly life and obey the Lord "Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."
- b) In conclusion I reminded the lady that she was an able minister according to this passage. 2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- c) I also encouraged her to minister through the ability which God gives not her own ability as according to 1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may

be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.
Amen.

I said all these things to say, she was called and equipped by God to do what she was doing, and she had to obey God rather than man.

Going back to obeying God, let us look at the following passages of scriptures:

- 1) Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.
 - a) We have to let God be true and every man a liar.
 - b) We will not experience success and victory if we do not obey God. Failure is guarantee if we do not obey the Lord. We need a right attitude displayed as we disobey man to obey God. Obeying God is obeying His Word. Those who do not obey God's Word should not claim to be obeying Him.
- 2) Daniel 3:11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

- 3) Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did formerly. 11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 Then they came near, and spoke before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

- a) Daniel was a man who was ready to serve the Lord no matter what. He was not intimidated by the writing of the king. He was going to obey God rather than man and He did.

- 4) Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We

ought to obey God rather than men. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

- a) When Peter and the apostles were commanded not to preach the Word, but he chose to obey the Lord and did not cease to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
- b) God's grace is not for disobedience. We cannot or should not hide behind grace while we disobey the Word of God that we clearly know. This is irresponsible and immature. We fool ourselves when we know what the Word says such as giving, loving, being faithful and yet we choose to rely on God's grace to disobey His Word.
- c) We need to choose who we will serve this day. The choice is simple. Yes, choosing the Lord comes with persecutions but it is the right choice anyway.

I heard President Donald Trump say this and I believe it is very telling about the attitude we should have about obeying God. He said, "we will not bend. We will not break. We will not yield. We will never give in. We will never give up. We will never back down. We will NEVER, ever surrender!

Many of us desire to hear the voice of God but the reason for hearing God should be to obey Him. Why would God speak to you if you will not obey Him? When God speaks to us, we should obey Him, logical or not.