

Gospel of John Chapter 14C

- **Peter Marshall** – born in **Scotland**, called to **ministry** at an early age, Served as a **Presbyterian Pastor** in **Georgia** and later in **Washington DC**... For the **last 18 months** of his life he served as **Chaplin to the U.S. Senate**.. **Died at the age of 46**.
- His **Wife Catherine (Wood) Marshall** wrote his biography “**A Man Called Peter**”

At an early age **Peter learned the fear of God** from the **training of a faithful mother**.

His mother (like mine) often gave him stewed Prunes as a dessert. One particular day **Peter grew tired of the prunes and he refused to eat them**.

His mother’s method of discipline began with communicating how displeased she was at his disobedience and eventually led to describing how displeased God was.

This particular day she sent him to his room with strong reminders of God’s displeasure.

Soon after reaching his room a great thunderstorm filled the afternoon sky. When the peals of thunder reached a frightening disciple and the lightning strikes illuminated **the entire house**, Peter’s mother decided to check on the young lad.

Entering the bedroom she didn’t find him under the covers of his bed, she didn’t find him at his desk, when she looked around the room she noticed he had his face pressed against the window peering out at the storm...

When she reached his side she heard young Marshall mutter, “**All this fuss over 2 prunes!**”

- **From that point forward the virtue of obedience was indelibly etched into Peter Marshall’s mind**.

This morning I would like to return to the Gospel of John chapter 14 where I have been captivated by the repeated connection that is made between love and obedience.

John 14:15 **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”**

SLIDE #3

Albert Barns: “Obedience to his commands is the only proper evidence of love to Jesus, mere profession is no proof of love; but that love for him which leads us to do all his will, to love each other, to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and to follow him through evil report and through good report, this is true attachment.”

John 14: 21 **Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”**

- **We know from our own experience at HOME, one of the greatest demonstrations of true love is obedience**.
- **True love for a parent or grandparent is a strong motivator toward obedience in the heart of a child**.
- **In the same way our obedience to the Word of God is an expression of love for God**.
- **Jesus said he would manifest himself uniquely to those who are obedient**.

John 14:22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

- **The unique MANIFESTATION of God to those who believe IS the INDWELLING presence of the Holy Spirit**.

- “we (*The Godhead*) will come to him and make our home with him” **We will reside in the heart of the obedient believer.** The New Testament Temple is made of living stones, YOU are the tabernacle where God dwells and **manifests himself.**

John tells us that **Jesus’ love** for the Father **was demonstrated through obedience.** In this he is our greatest example.

John 14: 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

- **Jesus knew** that Satan was about to make his bold move. **He was orchestrating Jesus’ arrest, his conviction and his impending death....**
- **BUT Death could not hold him** because **he had no sin.** (Satan had no claim on him)
- In love he obeyed the Father perfectly.

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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.

- **To ABIDE is to REMAIN....** And obedience is a necessary ingredient in our abiding.

So this morning we are going **to evaluate the love that WE express** for God **through OUR obedience.** Let’s break it down into 4 points:

- **What is it? (obedience)**
- **IS it necessary for salvation? Or is it the product of salvation.**
- **What does obedience look like?**
- **What are the benefits of an obedient life?**

1. WHAT is Obedience?

Alistair Begg: “A Biblical definition of obedience is **doing everything God commands.**”

Exodus 23:22 “**But if you carefully obey his voice** (God’s messenger) **and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.**

- **Some in Israel believed the great promises of God** and **were justified by faith** **BUT the vast majority lived in the darkness of unbelief.**
- **God spoke** through His servants **the prophets** but the **people rejected God’s Word.**
- **They held on to their religious practices like a rabbit’s foot,** thinking it would **save them from destruction.** **BUT God saw their hearts:**
- **We look at Jeremiah to see what obedience is NOT!**

Jeremiah 7:3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’

Jeremiah 7:8 “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?”

21 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. (eat the sacrifices yourselves) 22 For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. 23 But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’

In Jeremiah’s day Israel’s obedience consisted of a fragile adherence to a few ritual sacrifices. They mistakenly thought they were safe because they continued to practice some of the ancient rituals but their lives were filled with corruption.... This was NOT obedience.

- Participating in a few religious rituals is NOT obedience to God. (**communion, baptism**)

2. Is Obedience NECESSARY for salvation? OR is it the product of salvation?

The natural man (Apart from Christ) is separated from God and he has NO Ability to obey the commands of the Lord. He is dead in his sins..... (Ephesians 2, Romans 5:12)

But when God regenerates a man, giving him a new heart, then and only then is he able to obey the call of God. So the first sign of new life is the obedient response to the call of God.

SLIDE #14

- **The work of God (bringing life) to the inner man, is evidenced through obedience:**

Mark 1:19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

- **So obedience is the natural response of a regenerated heart to the call of God.**
- **Peter tells us that obedience is the result of God’s work in redemption:**

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

- **Believers are God’s elect** (chosen people) according to the foreknowledge of God
- **By the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit who set us apart for God, transforming our affections and renewing our minds.**
- **(The work of God results in) obedience to Jesus Christ and for the sprinkling of blood.**
 - **The grace of God which seeks us out and sets us apart does so for obedience to Jesus Christ.**
 - **We have been saved from sin to live a life of obedience**

Obedience in the life of a Believer is actually considered to be evidence of true conversion. John, in his Epistle provides various TESTS designed to affirm the work of God and provide assurance for all true believers.

1 John 2:3 And **by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.** 4 Whoever says “I know him” **but does not** keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 **but whoever keeps his word,** in him truly the love of God is perfected. **By this we may be sure that we are in him:** 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

IN the Gospel of Luke Jesus describes the folly of those who would call Him LORD and never walk in obedience.

Luke 6: 46 “**Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?** 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and **does them**, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears **and does not do them** is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

- **Those who hear and obey the Word of the Lord will endure all of the trials of this life and still remain standing.** (They have eternal life)
- **Those who hear the words of God and let them pass, never expressing the obedience of faith will be ruined in the righteous judgment of God.**

3. What does obedience look like?

What are the practical implications in the life of a believer that display his obedience?

- **Humility**
- **Holiness**
- **Love**

Humility:

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John are **filled with innumerable commands toward humility from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Himself:**

Matthew 11:29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Matthew 18:3-4, and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 **Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

- **When God graciously reveals himself to us, the glory and majesty of his person have an immediate humbling affect on those who believe.**

Consider **Daniel** when God revealed himself: **for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.**

Peter – (at the great catch of fish) Lu 5:8 **When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”**

Paul: Acts 9:6 (NKJV) **So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"**

Holiness:

While I realize that NONE of us have been perfected in holiness, all who believe have the Holy Spirit within driving them to desire personal holiness:

1 Peter 1:14 **As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**

- **New life in Christ is just that! It is a NEW life, old things have passed away and behold all things are new.**

- **There are definite changes that take place: change of heart brings about changes in vocabulary, changes in thinking that bring about changes in behavior.**

Like the **pushing off of dead leaves** that survived the winter, when the **new life of spring** fill the **branches of the tree.**

J C Ryle: "*Holiness comes from Christ. It is the result of vital union with Him. It is the fruit of being a living branch of the true Vine*" (Ryle, *Holiness*, 48).

- **Of course this holiness is a progressive work. We will not fully attain what we will fully be until we fully see him face to face.**

1 John 1:8 **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- **He is continually, actively cleansing us from ALL unrighteousness.**

Love:

1 John 5:1 **Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

Love for our brothers is a distinctive sign that WE have passed out of death into life. This love is not an emotion, it is not some blissful feeling that turns your heart to mush, more times than not it is a choice of the will, motivated by the Spirit of God in accordance with the Word of God wherein you have the ability of God to set aside the selfishness of your flesh and put your brother ahead of yourself.

4 What are the benefits of an obedient life?

- Abiding (remaining) in the love of Christ
- Experiencing the fullness of joy.
- Intimate friendship with God

John 15:9 **As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.**

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.**

11 **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

John 15: 14 **You are my friends if you do what I command you.**

15 **No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.**

Our obedience to God is not the cold legalistic obedience that might be demanded through a series of LAWS etched into tablets of stone.

- **Our obedience to God is the obedience of a bride to her bridegroom.**
- **It is the obedience of LOVE.**
- **Honoring, respecting and cherishing the Lord Jesus for who he is and all that he has done to rescue us from the bondage of sin.**

Our obedience comes with GREAT benefits.

- Abiding (remaining) in the love of Christ – **no more secure place known to man.**
- Experiencing the fullness of joy. **The blissful delight in which God himself dwells** He imparts to his beloved believers and this fulfills **like nothing else life can provide.**
- Intimate friendship with God – To **hear his voice** to **know his will**, to **sense his loving guiding hand** throughout your day