

OBEDIENCE



TRAINING



Obedience Training

- How many here have ever had a dog? Were they a lot of work? Did they need a lot of care?
 - How many have ever taken your dog to obedience school? Did it take a lot of time and work to train your dog?
 - Tonight we are going to discuss Obedience Training.
- I. The First Thing We Do When We First Get A Dog Is To *Pick It Out*.
- A. Go to an animal shelter or a breeder.
- B. We choose the dog – the choice is ours
1. *In a similar way, the Lord chooses us*
 - a) *John 15:16a,b*

(1) *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit*
 2. When we choose our dog, we hope that it will be a useful and enjoyable addition to our family.
- C. After we choose our dog, we have to purchase it.
1. We pay money that we have earned to purchase our dog.
 - a) We sacrificed in some way to earn the money we used to buy our dog.
 2. *In a similar way, the Lord purchases us.*
 - a) *Acts 20:28*

(1) *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*
 - b) *Our Lord sacrificed his life to purchase us. He paid with his own blood.*
 3. As we purchase our little dog and he becomes part of our family, so our Lord purchases us and we become a part of God's family.
- II. The First Lesson That We Teach Our Little Puppy Is To Walk With A Leash, Sometimes Called A Lead.
- A. At first he hates it.
1. He fights it
 2. He wants to be his own master
 3. But to have real freedom, he needs to accept the authority of his new master. He needs to accept the leash.

4. Soon, he comes to love the leash. He knows that when his master gets out the leash, that they will be going on some kind of adventure. And only on the leash can our puppy go safely out into the world at this time.

III. Now It Is Time To Take Our Puppy To Obedience School

A. He doesn't fight the leash any more, but he still "does his own thing" most of the time. Now he is going to learn to obey his master as his master leads him along.

1. *In a similar way, our Lord leads us along*

a) *Psalm 23:2*

(1) *...He leadeth me beside the still waters*



B. Learning to walk on a leash

1. We want our puppy to pay attention to us, to learn to anticipate what we want him to do, and not to let distractions take his attention away from his master.

a) We hold a treat by our face and tell him to "watch." When he looks at us, we give him a treat. Soon, he is constantly looking at his master and ignoring the world that is around him.

b) *In a similar manner, we are to "turn our eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

C. Learning to sit

1. Our puppy needs to learn to sit and be still on command.

2. Puppies can get very excited and when they are first told to sit, they just jump and play and don't understand at all what they are supposed to do.

3. So we have to show him what we want. We don't push down hard on his hind quarters, we simply push against the back of his legs and "knock the props out from under him." It doesn't hurt, but he is forced to sit when he is told to.

4. *In a similar way, our Master sometimes has to "knock the props out from under us to get us to sit still and calm down.*

a) *The question is – Have we learned to "sit" when necessary, or does the Lord still have to knock the props out from under us to get us to sit still for a while?*

D. Learning to heel

1. Heeling means that your puppy walks at his master's side. His head is even with his master's knee. He doesn't pull ahead and he doesn't hang back. When his master stops, the dog stops and automatically sits. All the while, his full attention is on his master.



a) Very few puppies pull back. Most of them are excited about going for a walk with the master and are pulling ahead to explore the world.

2. Sometimes, in order to keep the puppy under control, it is necessary to put a choke chain on him. When he pulls out ahead, the master gives a short jerk on the choke chain to remind the puppy that he is to pay attention to his master's wishes and not to try to run ahead.

3. Once in a while, a puppy thinks that it is worth an occasional "choke" if he can run ahead. Then the master has to use a "pinch collar." This doesn't choke the dog, but when the dog pulls ahead, he gets a sharp pinch that makes it worth while to pay attention to his master and do what he is told.

a) *In a similar manner, sometimes our Master needs to use a choke chain or pinch collar to remind us that He is in control and we are not to strike out on our own.*

E. Learning to stay

1. Dogs don't like to stay. There are too many interesting things to smell and chase to waste time "staying." But for the dog to be of the best use to his master, he needs to learn to stay.

2. At first, they learn to sit and stay, then to lie down and stay. They start out staying or a few seconds, and when well trained, will stay for as long as 20 minutes or longer with the master out of sight and not breaking out of their stay until the master comes back and releases him.

a) *In a similar manner, our Master sometimes tells us to stay or wait.*

(1) *Acts 1:4*

(a) *And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father...*



(2) *Isaiah 40:31*

(a) *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

3. When we tell our dog to "stay", he doesn't understand why, there are lots more interesting things to do instead of staying in one place. But he obediently does what his master commands, because he wants to please his master.

a) *The question is – Are you willing to "stay" until the Lord tells you to move on, or do you have your own ideas about what needs to be done and when?*

F. Learning to come

1. When you first call to your dog to come, he will probably think this a great time for a game of "Catch Me if You Can."

2. He quite often thinks that since he is out of reach, he doesn't have to obey.

3. Using a 30 foot lead, his master teaches him that no matter how far away he thinks the master is, he still needs to be obedient.
- a) *In a similar manner, our Master calls us to come.*
(1) *Matthew 11:28*
(a) *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - b) *The question is - When the Lord tells us to “come”, are we so busy smelling the roses that we don’t want to come to him?*
4. At obedience class one night, all of the students put their dogs on a sit-stay, walked across the room, and they all called their dogs. Every dog went to the wrong master.
5. The meter reader left the back gate open a few years ago. I let Dan out around 10:00 for his bedtime bathroom break. When I went to call him in, he was gone. I walked out in front of the house and could hear him barking up at the top of the street. I called as loud as I could, “Dan, come.” I could hear his tags on his collar jingling as he ran at top speed and finally sat down breathlessly at my feet.
- a) *The question is – When the Master calls, do you immediately go to him, or do you wander around on your way, or taking your eyes off of Him, do you find yourself heading for the wrong master in your life? Do you come running, or do you go the other way?*

G. Down

1. This is a command that tells the dog to lie down. Our dog thinks this even worse than a “sit-stay.” What a waste of time to lie down when there are so many interesting things to explore. It’s one of those things that he doesn’t understand, but does because it pleases his master.
 - a) *In a similar manner, our Master sometimes makes us lay down for a while*
(1) *Psalm 23:2*
(a) *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...*

H. Come & Down

1. Now you can incorporate two commands for the safety of your dog.
2. Come – down – come
 - a) Imagine your dog gets out of your fenced yard and has run across the street. You call him, and he obediently starts to come running to you. But you see that a car is coming and that he will be running into the path of the speeding car. You immediately give the hand signal and command “down”. Your puppy immediately stops and lies down. The car passes, you repeat the command to come, and he safely comes and sits at your feet.
 - b) This requires complete immediate obedience.
 - (1) Obedience with no questions
 - (2) Obedience requiring no explanations.



3. *The question is –*
- a) *Are you so obedient to your Master that you immediately obey with no questions and requiring no explanations?*

 - b) *When the Master puts you “down”, are you willing to stay there until He tells you to get up and go again?*

I. Heel with No Leash

- 1. The well trained dog learns to heel at his master’s side with no leash.
- 2. He is completely focused on his master
- 3. Nothing can distract him from his master
- 4. He knows his master so well that he anticipates his master’s wishes
- 5. He stops when his master stops.
- 6. He walks the same pace as his master.
- 7. Nothing is as important as pleasing his master.
- 8. *The question is – How important is your master?*

J. You Need to be Lovingly Strict to Train a Dog Well

- 1. Need absolute obedience.
 - a) Ben Watson’s dog
 - (1) Ben was blind
 - (2) Came to a seminar in Chicago
 - (3) Gladys and the dog stayed with us
 - (4) The dog was not to go into the kitchen
 - (5) Sat with feet on the kitchen floor.
 - b) *The question is - Are you obedient from the heart, or do you have your paws on the kitchen floor?*



Application

1. *Have you learned to “sit” when necessary, or does the Lord still have to knock the props out from under you to get you to sit still for a while?*
2. *Does the Lord have to use a choke chain or a pinch collar on you to get you to walk obediently at His side, or have you learned to keep focused on him and have learned to anticipate his wishes?*
3. *Are you willing to “stay” until the Lord tells you to move on, or do you have your own ideas about what needs to be done and when?*
4. *When the Lord tells you to “come”, are you so busy smelling the roses that you don’t want to come to him? Do you come running, or do you go the other way?*
5. *When the Master calls, do you immediately go to him, or do you wander around on your way, or taking your eyes off of Him, do you find yourself heading for the wrong master in your life?*
6. *When the Master puts you “down”, are you willing to sty there until He tells you to get up and go again?*
7. *Are you obedient from the heart, or do you have your paws on the kitchen floor?*

