

## Obedience – Handout

5.15.22

*Boundaries are limits and limits are love* when derived from a spirit of love rather than a spirit of control.

What has happened to “holy fear?”

Obedience is holiness; holiness is choosing obedience. (Acts 5:3, 4)

1. Unwholesome fear. *I do not walk in an unhealthy fear of my heavenly Father because I know His unconditional love.*
2. Legalistic rules and regulations. “Obedience is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:22). *Sacrifice came out of regulation; obedience comes out of love.*
3. To earn favor from God. We cannot earn something that has already been given to us! “Accept one another, then, just as *Christ accepted you*, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7).

*This is love for God to obey his commands (1 John 5:3). And this is love that we walk in obedience to his commands (2 John 6). If you love me [Jesus said], you will obey what I command (John 14:15). Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me (John 14:21).*

How do I get started?

- Am I pursuing an intimate relationship with God in my life? Is it the most intimate relationship that I have? And, out of this intimacy do I desire obedience?
- Am I dealing with interferences to that intimacy, i.e., lack of proper understanding of intimacy, allowing circumstances or people to overwhelm me?
- Do I believe that God truly wants the best for me in my life and that He has my best interest in mind?
- Am I willing to admit I am wrong in some concepts of obedience? Am I asking God to show me His definition of obedience?
- Am I willing to stop making excuses, understanding that His boundaries are loving?
- Am I willing to confess my errors in obeying God for the wrong reasons?
- Do I want to lay down my heavy burdens of legalism and obey for the right reasons?
- Am I willing to look at the false humility/pride in my life?
- Am I willing to look at the excuses I have been making for my disobedience?
- Am I ready and willing to not only listen to the word but to obey the word? (James 1:22)