



JOY IN OBEDIENCE

Philippians 2:12-30

LINKS

- JOY: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...”* (Gal 5:22)

Happiness depend on happenings, but joy depends on knowing Jesus is in control

- OBEDIENCE: *“teaching them to obey everything...”* (Matt 28:20)

How many commands? More than 50? Especially...

He [Jesus] said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matt 22:37-39)

LOOKING AROUND

1. Context – “crooked and perverse generation” (15)
(Crooked = behaviour; perverse = belief)
2. Character – “shine like stars” (15)
(Blameless... pure... children of God... without fault)
3. Clarity – “hold out/hold fast” (16)
(Bible-based disciples... contrast with the world)
4. Change – “have always obeyed” (12)
(Work out your salvation... God is at work in you)

LESSONS IN OBEDIENCE

- ❖ Obedience = change
- ❖ Lordship = authority & obedience (*“Lord” has lost its meaning. It declares the character & dignity of Jesus & is the basis of our worship.*)
- ❖ We tend to “pick & choose” our obedience (*“What’s the least I can do & still get into heaven?”*)

Requires an entire lifestyle change

COMPANIONS

- ✓ Timothy (19-24) Loved God; served others
- ✓ Epaphroditus: (25-30) Valued companion; prepared to die for Jesus

Discipleship is always in the context of community.

SO WHERE'S THE JOY IN OBEDIENCE?

1. Like-mindedness with Jesus = lack of conflict = harmony
2. Accepting that Jesus knows best leads to positive outcome means I can engage life
3. Obedience means living a life of freedom & integrity, free from guilt, anger, fear etc...