

Obedience

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Genesis 1:26.
- B. God created man in His own image with real volition.
- C. The very first word of God to man is a command: be fruitful.
- D. All problems come from the disobedience of the first human beings.
- E. Satan always attacks the person of God, the Word of God, and His grace.

II. Kinds of obedience. (II Chronicles 25)

A. False.

- 1. Amaziah did what was outwardly right in the sight of God.
- 2. However, not everything is done with a perfect heart.
- 3. True obedience is having an honest relationship with God and with others.
- 4. The Lord has a way of bringing these things into focus.

B. True. (Romans 6:17)

- 1. Obedience from the heart is surrender.
- 2. It is coming to a verse in Scripture and laying down one's will.

III. Areas of obedience.

A. Word.

- 1. Words matter.
- 2. This is not just a matter of vocabulary—tone of voice is important.

B. Deed.

- 1. The Ten Commandments are not flexible.

2. Be honest and your actions will be right.

C. Thought.

1. Let the Spirit of God take the Word of God and refresh you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

2. We never lose mental debates with God. (Psalm 37:6)

IV. Benefits of obedience.

A. Salvation. (Romans 1:5, Hebrews 5)

B. Blessing. (Isaiah 1)

C. Cleansing. (I Peter 1:22)

D. Fellowship with the Savior. (John 14:21)

V. Conclusion.

A. The deadliness of a single act of disobedience is that it extends one's propensity for more disobedience.

B. One act of obedience also helps to pattern oneself.

C. The key is to make a decision for obedience in advance.

Application questions:

1. How was Amaziah's obedience false?

2. Why do you think obedience in thought is such a challenge over the other areas?

3. How can you challenge yourself to grow in your obedience in word? Explain.
