

An Outpost for the King of kings

Philippians 2:12

Big Idea: Jesus is Lord! As an outpost for the King of the universe we represent the good and loving nature of Christ's rule by our trust in Him and our obedience to his commands.

Two aspects of our discipleship to Jesus:

1. The _____ of our Discipleship

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always *obeyed*, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

As soldiers in his outpost, we show to the world around us the goodness of God's rule as we delightfully submit to His commands.

Proper obedience in the Christian life is inextricably linked to the salvation that God continues to offer us in his ongoing presence and power in our inner man through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV) — 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Ezekiel 36:25–27 (ESV) — 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, **and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

2. The _____ of our Discipleship

Philippians 2:12 (ESV) — 12 **Therefore**, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

John 6:38 (ESV) — 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Matthew 26:39 (ESV) — 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

The cross was Jesus the Son's greatest expression of his love for and trust in the Father.

"But whoever, according to God's promise, seeks to participate in the radiance and glory of Jesus must first be conformed to the image of the obedient, suffering servant of God on the cross... It is with this image alone that God is well-pleased. Only those who allow themselves to be found before God in the likeness of this image live as those with whom God is well pleased."

-D. Bonhoeffer Discipleship

True Godward obedience is not outward conformity to the Law of God but inward submission to the will of God as we exercise faith in who we are in Jesus.

Questions to Consider:

- Reflect on 1Peter 3:15. In what ways is God calling you to point people to the greater reality of his kingdom
- What is true obedience? In what ways is God calling you to submit to his good and gracious will?
- When you are tempted to disobey this week, ask yourself what is at the heart of your disobedience? What are you declaring you know better than God?

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