

THE BIBLE VIEW

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God's Truths Are Not Open to Discussion!

Bill Brinkworth

Although modern man prides himself on having improved and more intelligent than previous generations, the independent nature of man to do his own thing and to disobey God has not changed much from his predecessors. Today's self-willed behavior is also not much different than the very first man and woman's — Adam and Eve. We can see and recognize our similarities with early man by observing Adam and Eve's experience with Satan in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

Eve allowed herself to be in a position that she could hear the wrong side of how she should behave. God prohibited her and Adam from eating of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17). She heard the commandment from Adam, who was commanded by God, yet she allowed herself to get into a conversation with Satan about what she knew she was not to do.

Eve's next mistake was trying to reason with the enemy of God. Because of the sly, deceiving conversation with Satan, who desired to trick her into disobeying God, it was not long until her thinking was "confused." She added, "neither shall ye touch it ..." (Gen 3:3) in her discussion with Satan, which was never in God's commandment to Adam. Satan's conversation with her removed the clarity of the commandment to her. God's commandment is His, and no one else's words can change what He commands.

When we get ourselves in a position where we try to reason with others about what we know God would have us do, we too will make mistakes and can fall as did Adam and Eve. When we tell the boss we need to be in church rather than at work on Sunday, we will not usually win in convincing him what is right. We often will not win when we tell our loved ones their difficulties in life are due to their involvement in sin. They do not even recognize sin as a decrement to behavior. Our discussion will most likely not convince a public school teacher that our children should not read a book that is required by the schools. Our reasoning that the harmful subject matter will put temptations in the mind of the child will most likely not change the teacher's requirements. We must do what is right! It is not open to discussion. We cannot justify with others what is just with God!

Once Eve allowed herself to discuss God's way with Satan, it went downhill from there. The enemy's attack proceeded to question God's Word "... Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). The doubt the beguiler placed in her mind accused God of lying — of being wrong!

When we get in a position to discuss with others what God has made clear for us to do, it will go downhill. When we try to reason with others why we try to follow God's way found in His Book, doubts may also be placed in our thinking when we hear: "You don't believe that old book do you?," "How do you know it is what God originally said anyway?," "That was for then and not for now!," "That's not what my religion teaches!," "Can't you do your own thinking?," or "Why do you have to obey that old Book!" On and on, the disobedient will try to get God's-commandment-obeyers to deviate from following God's commandments, much as Satan did to Eve.

Once doubt is placed in one's mind, as it was in Eve's, it will not be long until man's weak nature takes the thoughts to the next level — sin. Eve succumbed to the lusts of her eyes: "... the woman saw the tree was good ... pleasant to the eyes ..." (vs. 6). Lust of the flesh took over her thinking when she saw it was "... good for food" Finally, the lust of the pride of life was breached when she realized it could make her wiser. After she was led by her lusts, it was not long until she got Adam to partake in disobeying God also.

Their lives, and the rest of all mankind, suffered because of the one mistake one woman made — discussing God's commandments with another. When God makes a commandment to us clear in His Word, it should not be open to discussion. If God said it, that should settle it!

"Almighty God has posted His 'no trespassing' signs everywhere, but in spite of His warnings, men deliberately go their way ..." — *Oliver B. Greene*

God's Will

Edited from an article by Downname, 1644

If we desire to please God, we must first deny ourselves and our wills. We must purpose in our hearts as did our Saviour; "... not my will, but Thine, be done."

Neither must we ask counsel of carnal reason when we know God's will, dispute with flesh and blood whether it be fit or unfit, profitable or unprofitable, reasonable or against reason to do that which God commands us. We must yield unto absolute obedience by doing God's will as the saints and angels do in Heaven. We must obey cheerfully, readily, without gainsaying, doubting, or replying.

Earthly princes will not endure having their subjects question their laws nor examine their proclamations to see with what reason they issued the commandments. The rulers demand absolute obedience in all things and will not be served according to their subject's desires, but will have obedience squared by their laws.

If every master in a household were served according to his servant's choice and liking, the homeowner would not be pleased. If the captain of a company or general of an army would not tolerate a soldier that neglected their commands and did what they wanted, then how much less will the King of Kings endure to have His will neglected? How much more will He who is the Lord of Hosts be displeased with us, if in our spiritual welfare we regard not what He commands but perform such service as best suits our conceits? Let us not think that we are pleasing God when

we are doing our own will and way rather than His. What may seem right in our own eyes and mind does not supersede God's commands.

“Someone once said the main theme of the Bible is government! The Book gets one to answer the question of who will govern whom; will man govern himself or let God do the governing?”

True Obedience

Edited from an article by C. Buck

True obedience to the Lord's commandments should be:

- Active. Not only does one avoid that which is prohibited, but he performs what is commanded. (Col. 3:10)
- Personal. It is not just for others to do, but obedience to His Word is something we must commit ourselves to do.
- Something we should be sincere about.
- Motivated by our love for the Father. (1 John 5:19)
- Performed diligently, not lazily or haphazardly. (Gal. 1:16)
- Conspicuous to others around us. (Phil. 2:15)
- Never stopped. (Romans. 2:7)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” *John 14:15*

Only Obedience Will be Accepted

Edited from an Article by C. H. Spurgeon

Suppose a soldier received orders from his commanding officer to keep guard at such and such a door. All of a sudden, the sentry thinks to himself, “I am very fond of our commander, and I should like to do something for him.” He puts his rifle against the wall and starts to find a shop where he can buy a bunch of flowers. He is away from his post for a while, and when he comes back, he is discovered to have been away from his post of duty. He says, “Here is the bunch of flowers I went to get.”

However, I hear his commander say, “To obey is better than those flowers. We cannot allow you, nor will military discipline permit it, to run off at every whim and wish of yours and neglect your duty. Who knows what mischief might ensue?” The man, however much you might admire his thought and intent, would certainly be made to learn by military law that, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” It is a holier, and a better thing to do to continue in one's duty of obedience to the Lord's commandments than to any of our notions.

In Tune

Bill Brinkworth

If a violin is played, and all but one string is in tune, the piece played will sound most unmusical. No matter the quality of the instrument, or the musical experience of the violinist, a normal listening ear would not enjoy the resulting melody.

The conduct of a Christian can also be “unmelodious” to the Lord if a part of the believer’s life is “out of tune.” Although he may have surrendered his lips to no longer drink of intoxicating liquors, banned his eyes from looking upon lustful images, and even been faithful in church attendance, but permitted himself to continue in exercising his lying tongue when he knows it is against God’s commandments, he will be “out of tune” with God. God holds us accountable to obey all He has shown us or spoken to our hearts about.

“Perfect obedience is the exact conformity of our hearts and lives to the law of God, without the least imperfection.” — C. Buck