

A HEART THAT OBEYS

MARK 3:31FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. If you are like most people, you do not like to be told what to do. "Have you ever said, "You can't tell me what to do!""
2. God has the right to tell us how to live our lives. Our obedience to the will of God determines our eternal destination. (Matt. 7.21)
3. What kind of heart must we develop to live by the will of God?

I. A HEART THAT OBEYS IS GOD CENTERED

- A. Jesus lived a God centered life.
 1. **MARK 3.31-35:** "Who is My mother, or My brother?"
 2. **MARK 3.36:** "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."
- B. Are you God centered?
 1. There are God-given responsibilities to our families we must fulfill. (1 Tim. 6.8; Eph. 5.25; 6.1)
 2. Did Jesus care for His family? (John 19.27,28)
 3. Those who are God centered see their relationships with brethren as family. (Eph. 3.15; Heb. 2.11; Matt. 10.37)

II. A HEART THAT OBEYS IS DIFFERENT

- A. Jesus lived a life that was different.
 1. **MARK 3.36:** To the Jewish mind, valuing your disciples more than your family was strange.
 2. Jesus was the Messiah, but He did not live up to the expectations of the Jews. (John 4.25,26)
- B. Are you different?
 1. We are to be different. (Rom. 12.2; 1 Pet. 4.2-4)
 2. Being God centered makes us different. (Matt. 22.37)

III. A HEART THAT OBEYS LISTENS

- A. The purpose of parables.
 1. What is a parable? (Mark 4.1,2)
 2. Why did Jesus teach in parables? (Matt. 13.10,11,34,35)
- B. The parable of the sower.
 1. The parable itself. (Mark 4.3-8)
 2. The point of the parable. (Mark 4.3,13)
 3. The principle of the parable. (Mark 4.14-20)

CONCLUSION: Do you want to do the will of God?

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

June 20, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

PROVOKING A CHILD TO WRATH

Children are a blessing. We are told in Psalm 127.3 that "*Children are a heritage from the Lord.*" Do you see your children as a gift from God? Proverbs 17.6 tell us that "*Children's children are a crown of old men.*" Do you cherish your grandchildren? Though children are a wonderful gift, parents have responsibilities toward their children, and those responsibilities are challenging.

In Ephesians 6, parents are referenced in verse 1, but in verse 4, fathers are mentioned specifically. It is there that Paul writes, "*Father, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" What does it mean to not provoke your children to wrath? Are fathers not to make their children angry?

The concept of provoking your children to wrath is to treat them in a way that leads them to become bitter. In a similar passage, Paul provides an explanation. Colossians 3.21 says, "*lest they become discouraged.*" When a father places unreasonable demands on his children, his children will be discouraged. Do your children feel as if they can never please you no matter how hard they try?

What's the alternative? Fathers are to raise them up in the "*training and admonition of the Lord.*" Literally, fathers are to instruct them and disciple them. A father who loves his children raises them to be what God wants them to be. (Prov. 13.24). CLP

A FATHER'S LOVE LUKE 15:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. The parable of the prodigal son is one of three parables in which Jesus sets before us the love of a father toward his son.
2. The parable can be divided into three sections.
 - a) The consumption of the prodigal son. (Luke 15.11-16)
 - b) The compassion of the father. (Luke 15.17-24)
 - c) The critique of the older brother. (Luke 15.25-32)
3. This morning we will focus on the love that the father showed toward his son. [Read Luke 15.11-24]

I. THE LOVE OF A FATHER TOWARD HIS SON

- A. How was the love of a father shown to his son?
 1. His love was shown in his knowing him. (Luke 15.20)
 2. His love was shown in his compassion. (Luke 15.20)
 3. His love was shown in his affection. (Luke 15.20)
- B. A father's love is unconditional.
 1. His son was unkind to him. (Luke 15.12)
 2. His son was unthoughtful. (Luke 15.12)
 3. His son was unattached. (Luke 15.17)

II. LESSONS FATHERS CAN LEARN

- A. Fathers build memories with their children.
 1. His son remembered that his father was responsible for taking care of the household. (Luke 15.17)
 2. His son remembered that his father met the needs of the household. (Luke 15.17; 1 Tim. 5.8)
 3. His son remembered that his father was able to provide a little bit extra for his household. (Luke 15.17)
 4. His son remembered that his father was spiritually minded. (Luke 15.18; cf. John 17.5)
- B. Fathers instill character in their children.
 1. His father knew his son. (Luke 15.20)
 2. His father felt for his son. (Luke 15.20)
 3. His father forgave his son. (Luke 15.21)
 4. His father restored his son. (Luke 15.22-24)

CONCLUSION: It was a Father's love that resulted in Jesus offering Himself on the cross so we can be called the sons of God.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR LEADERS

The current pandemic is slowly coming to an end as things are gradually getting back to normal. But we are not coming out of it unscathed. The pandemic has left its scars on our world. Lives have been lost. It has affected us economically, emotionally, physically, socially, and even spiritually.

The Lord's church has lost many of its members. Some have allowed the pandemic to weaken their faith and even leave their first love. We have had to suspend services and conduct our studies and worship virtually. When we started meeting again, many have not come back. More than ever, we need to be concerned and actively engaging in the work of the church to produce growth in the body of Christ.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul referred to that which "*causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love*" (Eph. 4.16). Specifically, our passage says that growth of the body comes when "*every part does its share*" (v. 16). If we spend time in the context, brethren are placed into two categories. Very briefly, we will give attention to the first group identified as the leaders of the congregation. Ephesians 4.10 says that Jesus set into the church "*some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.*"

What was the work these individuals were to do? He goes on to say that they were set in place for two reasons. They were set in place for the purpose of "*equipping the saints for the work of ministry*" (Eph. 4.12). The word "equipping" means to prepare completely. The word "ministry" means to be a table server. It is the responsibility of the preacher and elders to completely prepare the brethren so that they can live as a servant to others. Second, they were set in place for the purpose of "*edifying the body of Christ.*"

If the elders and preacher did their job well preparing the brethren and building up the church through preaching the word, it would result in five things. First, brethren would be unified (v. 13). Second, brethren would be knowledgeable (v. 13). Third, brethren would be spiritually mature (v. 13). Fourth, brethren would be more like Jesus (v. 13). Fifth, brethren would be less vulnerable to false teaching (v. 14).

To grow as the church, everyone must do their part in the work of the church. Preachers must preach. Elders must shepherd. And we all must strive to be a servant like Jesus. CLP