

“Greatness:
Just Live It”

“Greatness Through Obedience” Core 31

“Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:29-31

A. God’s greatest command...

“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:26-40

1. Love is an action word, not an emotion.
2. We can’t love God with only part of us-- we must love God with all of us: our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength!
3. As a result of loving God, we demonstrate that by loving our neighbor!

“The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ Jesus replied with a story: ‘A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him...Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?’ Jesus asked. The man replied, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Yes, now go and do the same.’” Luke 10:29-37

B. Obedience is a direct result of love in action...

1. A natural result of love is obedience.
“If you love Me, obey My commandments.” John 14:15
2. When we walk in obedience, we discover more of God and His love for us.
“Those who accept My commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me. And because they love Me, My Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal Myself to each of them.” John 14:21
3. Our obedience gives us confidence in our relationship with Him.
“And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments.” 1 John 2:3
4. Your love for God is demonstrated by your obedience.

“But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.” 1 John 2:5

5. Obedience keeps us in fellowship with God. Fellowship maintains the joy, sees answers to prayer, and witnesses the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

“Those who obey God’s commandments remain in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Spirit He gave us lives in us.” 1 John 3:24

C. Obedience is more...

1. God calls us to actively listen to His Word.
“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.” James 1:19-20
2. God calls us to continued action.
“But don’t just listen to God’s Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.” James 1:22-24
3. God rewards our obedience with His blessing!
“But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” James 1:25

D. Obedience brings blessings...

“One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on Him to listen to the word of God... So He sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon ‘Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.’ ‘Master,’ Simon replied, ‘we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if You say so, I’ll let the nets down again.’ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!... When Simon Peter realized what had happened...he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.” Luke 5:1-10

1. Obeying God in small things brings blessing.
2. Our obedience blesses others.
3. Obedience never brings disappointment.

“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey the LORD your God:” Deuteronomy 28:1-2

E. Is obedience a high priority in your life? Or, have you dropped the thread of obedience?

“If you sense your faith is unraveling...

Go back to where you dropped the thread of obedience.”

1. Do you believe that God is Sovereign and that we are to obey Him above all things?
2. Do you believe God’s Word is a guide for life? Are you following the directives in your life?
3. Do you trust God for His wisdom and His care?
4. Do you believe that you can follow God and live a life of disobedience? Can you be 90% obedient and 10% disobedient?
5. The question is not...Have I obeyed? Or will I obey? But am I obeying? Past obedience may be a foundation...and future obedience may be an intent that is wonderful...but obedience lives in the present!
6. If you believe He is the Creator, can you trust Him with your time and your finances?
7. If you love Him, do your actions show it?

“If someone claims, ‘I know God,’ but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.” 1 John 2:4

“We know we love God’s children if we love God and obey His commandments.” 1 John 5:2

A New Series:

May 16-17: Greatness: Just Live It!

Greatness Through Belief Core 31