

# To Restore Obedience

## Why God Became Man--part 2

December 7, 2014

### **DAY 1: Made righteous**

*Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

1. The rebellion and disobedience of Adam sank the entire human race into sin. Every person born since Adam has been born in sin. Below are different aspects of our sin nature. Underneath each aspect jot down your thoughts.

a. Being a sinner by nature means that we are naturally inclined to disobey God.

b. We naturally prefer gratifying the sinful desires of our own hearts more than the desires God has for us.

c. Nothing in our heart is willing to overcome our preference for disobeying God.

d. Nothing in our heart is able to overcome our preference for disobeying God.

2. Where does that leave you when you think about the necessity of obeying God?

3. How can we become acceptable to God, especially considering we will not obey God? How can we be restored to the road of obedience?

4. It was to restore obedience to the human race that the Jesus became a man and willingly submitted to the righteous Law of God and the punishment of our sin. God the Father did not compel His Son to die. Jesus suffered death of his own will.

5. Thank God that His obedience made your obedience possible!

## DAY 2: Active obedience

1. Theologians see two types of obedience in Jesus for the sake of sinful man. They call the first "active obedience."

2. By His active obedience Jesus perfectly fulfilled all the righteous requirements of God's Law. Why would that be important? Think of "Just how could unholy men, who didn't naturally want to be reconciled to God, ever be reconciled to a holy God?"

*Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

3. How did Jesus' obedience make it possible for us to obey God?

*2 Cor. 5:21 God made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that, through His obedience – (not ours) – we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*

4. What differences are there in this verse and Romans 5:19? How is it that sinful man can be made righteous, with a new power to obey God?

5. Christ presented to God a complete and full righteousness, spotless, without stain or guilt. It is *His* righteousness which is the ground on which God is willing to accept us.

6. By actively obeying (submitting) to God's law, Jesus accomplished the righteousness we failed to accomplish, an obedience required to know God.

7. He submitted to the punishment of God's Law at the hands of evil men. By this submission and obedience, He took away our sin.

8. All of God's just wrath was poured out on Jesus, not us. The more we realize what He has done through His obedience, the more we are humbled, and motivated to obey the One who would willingly die for us.

9. What strikes you most from today's devotional?

### DAY 3: Passive Obedience

1. Theologians discuss Jesus' two kinds of obedience. The second of Jesus' obedience is what is known as His passive obedience, in which He allowed Himself to be arrested and crucified.

*John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

2. Jesus refers to Himself as the good shepherd. What must the good shepherd be willing to do for His sheep?

3. What did the good shepherd do for His sheep?

*John 10:17 "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again.  
<sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

4. In the final analysis, who had more say in Jesus' arrest and crucifixion: Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious leaders, or Jesus?

*Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.  
<sup>8</sup>And being found in human form he humbled himself and **became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.***

5. What five or six things were required of Jesus, God the Son, in the coming from heaven to earth, and ultimately to the cross?

6. What connection is there between Jesus "being found in human form" and dying on a cross? Why is that important?

7. We are standing on holy ground. Let's turn this from a "theological" study to a personal one. Re-read Phil. 2:5-8, as if Jesus was taking each of these downward steps for you.

## DAY 4: Obedient and exalted

1. The obedience of Jesus to the submission of becoming human, being treated as a human by evil men, and all the way to the cross was a long obedience. Today, we'll take a peek at one sliver of His obedience.

2. The setting is the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Matthew 26:39* Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may **this cup** be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

3. What was "this cup?"

4. What things did He do in handling the obedience in front of Him? Look for three main items.

5. What does His response highlight in your own struggle with obedience? What important things should become a model for how you handle obedience?

*Matthew 26:41* "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

6. Jesus returns to Peter, James and John who were supposed to be praying for Him. Instead, they were sleeping. What do we learn about battling temptation from Jesus' words to His disciples?

*Philippians 2:9* Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

7. The obedience of Jesus Christ in coming to Earth as a human being, humbling Himself to sinful men, and submitting to the cross, ended up bringing the salvation of all who will trust in His death and resurrection for the remission of sin.

8. What is our rightful response(s) to what He did for us?

## **DAY 5: Power for righteousness**

*Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*

*Philippians 2:13 ...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

1. Now that we're saved, we have a new power within us in which to obey!
2. The Philippian church was planted by Paul. He commends the believers in the Philippian church for their obedience. What does he point out about their obedience?
3. What difference is there between obeying when Paul was there, and obeying Christ when Paul was not there? What does that indicate about their obedience to Jesus?
4. In verse 12, Paul does not mean that there is something we do to become saved. Once we are saved, the "working out" of that salvation is the long road of obedience (not in order to become saved or maintain salvation).
5. Why is the injunction to live the life of obedience with "fear and trembling" important? What do you think Paul is warning the believers about that lies in their hearts?
6. Part of the answer to the last question is verse 13. What is Paul implying about our "power" to obey? Is it really "our" power, or is it God's power now planted within us?
7. Why is that distinction important?
8. Obedience makes it possible for us to participate more and more in the relationships and life God has called us to. Obedience deepens our roots in Christ, deepens our commitment to Him, thrusts us heavenward for the longings of our heart to be met, and humbles us to more hunger and aspire to be people who reflect Him well in how we live and relate.
9. Which of these items is most important to you, at this stage of your Christian life? Why?