

Obedience That Passes The Test

2 Cor. 2:1-9

Introduction:

- A. Background of text (cf. 1 Cor. 5).
- B. Analysis of text.
 - 1. Corinthians had repented of failure correct problem over immoral man.
 - 2. Immoral man had repented - needed forgiving.
 - 3. Paul had two-fold purpose in writing.
 - a. To correct the mess in the church.
 - b. To test the church's willingness to obey in all things.
- C. One lesson of text: God expects whole-hearted obedience in *all* things.
 - 1. Love with *all* we have. (Mt. 22:37)
 - 2. Love demands obedience. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3)
- D. Another text outlines 3 *tests* of our obedience (Phil. 2:12-16).

Discussion:

II. Are We Willing Obey At All Times? (v. 12).

- A. Not just when it painless.
 - 1. Emotional pain.
 - a. Personal ties (Mt. 10:37)
 - b. Consequences of repentance. (Lk. 19:8; Ezra 10:1-3).
 - 2. Economic hardship. (Mt. 19:22).
 - 3. Physical pain. (Heb. 11:35).
- B. Not just when convenience. (Acts 20:7,16).

III. Are We Willing To Obey In All Things. (v. 14)

- A. Some pass the test.
 - 1. Abraham. (Gen. 22:12)
 - 2. Corinthians. (2 Cor. 2:7-9).
- B. Some fail the test.
 - 1. King Saul. (1 Sam. 15:10-24).
 - 2. Rich Young Ruler. (Mt. 19:16ff).
- C. Would we pass or fail?
 - 1. First principles - some or all?
 - 2. Worship - some or all?
 - 3. General conduct.
 - a. Scriptural religious service - questionable morals and ethics.
 - b. Church duties - not domestic, civic, etc. or vise versa.

IV. Are We Willing To Obey In All Places. (v. 15)

- A. Easy to attend services when surrounded by attending people.
- B. Easy to be modest surrounded by a decent people.
- C. Easy to be pure (in word and deed) surrounded by a pure people.
- D. Easy to demand high standards for children surrounded by parents that do so.
- E. Easy to control self (temper, tongue, passion) among non provocative people.
- F. Easy to be faithful surrounded by faithful people.
- G. But, test comes when surrounded by crooked and perverse people.

Conclusion:

- A. Our God is a demanding God! - Expecting complete willing obedience at all times.
- B. Our God is as forgiving as he is demanding. (1 John 2:1; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 - 1. If sinner will repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38).
 - 2. If erring will repent, confess and pray. (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).