



“Do You Love Me?” Our Obedience Is a Loving Response to Our Loving Lord (Matthew 28:18-20)

John 14:15 (ESV) — “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

1 John 5:3 (ESV) — For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

1 John 2:3–4 (ESV) — ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) — ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Biblical Truth: *Obedience to Jesus and His commands are anchored in His assuring authority and abiding presence. Those two truths frame every act of loving obedience in the Christian life.*

1) Loving Obedience Accepts Jesus’ Authority (v18)

1. Jesus’ authority is all-powerful and rooted in who He is.

“For in Him all things were created... all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”
— Colossians 1:16–17

Jesus claiming absolute authority — authority over the devil who tempts us, the world that opposes us, and our own hearts that resist Him.

2, Jesus’ authority is personal and rooted in His love

Jesus’ rule is not harsh or distant; it is authority born of love. Because He has conquered sin, death, and the grave, His authority offers us loving assurance.

He holds the universe together by His power, yet He humbled Himself to die for us in love. His sacrificial life and death, reveal that His authority is not self-serving, but self-giving.

Heart Check: *Is Jesus truly Lord in every area of my life, or just the parts I allow?*

2) Loving Obedience Transforms How We Live (v20)

Obedience is not natural to us — it’s contrary to our human nature. We don’t drift toward submission; we drift toward self.

Learning to be obedient and teaching others about obedience is the loving response to the Lord for everyone — not a select few of His disciples.

1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV) — And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

Jesus calls His followers to a process of learning and teaching obedience — because loving obedience must be taught, modeled, and caught.

Taught: Individually — Parents — Corporately (Church)

Heart Check: *Am I being transformed through loving obedience. Is my obedience shaping me into the likeness of Jesus? Am I teaching and helping others learn to love and obey Jesus too?*

3) Loving Obedience Can Be Difficult (Romans 7:18-25)

“For I do not do the good I want to do...” — Romans 7:19

Even those who love Jesus deeply find obedience hard. wrestling with weakness and inconsistency — the flesh always resists what the Spirit desires.

Disobedience, at its core, is a failure to trust the love of God and the truth of His promises.

The struggle doesn’t mean you’ve failed; it means you’re alive in Christ. How do we respond when we succeed and when we fail. Our obedient love for Christ keeps us returning, repenting, and relying on His forgiveness and sustaining strength.

Heart Check: *Our obedience requires our dying to pride, our dying to preference, and our dying to comfort. When we fall short in our obedience, does love draw you and me closer to Jesus knowing His grace waits for us, or does it cause us to hide?*

4) Loving Obedience Is Aware of Jesus’ Abiding Presence (v20)

The awareness of His presence keeps the flame of love and obedience burning.

Jesus’ abiding presence means we are never defenseless. His presence overcomes our adversary and accuser, the Devil. When temptation comes or obedience feels costly, Jesus stands with us as our advocate and defender.

Heart Check: *Am I aware that Jesus walks with me in my obedience, and in my struggle with obedience to His commands? Do I live each day with the confidence that Jesus is not only with me but fighting for me?*