

LOVE REFINED

Love Obeys

Decision-drivers...

- *I follow my emotions – “I’ll do what I feel like doing...”*
- *I follow my experience – “I’ll do what I’ve always known to do...”*
- *I follow my culture – “I’ll do what everyone else is doing...”*
- *I follow my God – “I’ll do what God is asking me to do...”*

Obedience is less about “what should I do?” and more about “who do I love?” – “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (John 14:21)

The blessing(s) of obedience...

- *The enjoyment of God’s love – “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love.” (John 15:9-10)*
- *The experience of personal joy – “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)*

The fruit of obedience...

- *A radical love for others – “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12)*

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:12)

The motivation of obedience...

- *A friendship with Jesus – “You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:14-15)*

☞ *Note: a true friend confides in you – “The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.” (Psalm 25:14)*

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:16-17)