

John 14–16, pt.4, 8.9.09
God's Love Language

Intro.

1. The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman – explain & video
2. How God likes to receive love – John 14.15, 21, 23a. Obedience.

The Obedience Scale: Your love for God is determined by your level of obedience. Your level of obedience will determine your awareness of His love for you.

- A. Our love for God is not the same. God weighs it (obedience scale). Its weight is determined by your level of obedience. The weight will determine your experience of God's presence.
- B. In other words, as I live in greater obedience I can expect a greater response and revelation of God in my life. The more you obey the more you see!
- C. His love is the same for everyone. He doesn't love Jesus more than me. But, only those who walk in obedience experience the deep love God. Jesus experienced God's love perfectly, b/c he perfectly obeyed.

Obedience isn't rigid, but relational in nature.

- A. Obedience isn't rigid. God gave specific commandments to Israel to follow, but He gave us His Spirit for us to follow.
 - a. His commands aren't burdensome – 1 John 5.3
- B. Obedience is relational in nature. It's following in Father's footsteps. As a child, my parents established rules of behavior to follow. As an adult, I follow the moral principles in my heart. One is external; the other is internal. Likewise, God established laws we are to follow as His creation, but once I come into a relationship through faith in Christ, I follow the law of the Spirit.
 - a. Rom.8.1f – Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus

the law of the Spirit of life set me from the law of sin and death.

b. Christian obedience isn't rule oriented, but relational. Some are already going through their obedience checklist to see how they're doing. You think you've got this obedience thing down. My grid use to be: am I telling the truth; witnessing; reading my Bible; giving.

c. John 15.10 – Jesus obeyed the Father's command from a place of intimacy not authority. In other words, He was so close to the Father & the Father to Him that He naturally did what was pleasing. The Father didn't have to stand above Him and so, "do this...and that."

C. I must follow the Lord from a place of intimacy or there is still distance between us. I continue to see Him as the King dispensing orders that I follow, instead of the friend who gently directs.

My obedience ensures His presence in my life.

- I'm not talking about His presence as it relates to salvation, but as it relates to my experience as a believer of His daily presence.
- 14.21 – I will manifest myself to Him. (personally show up)
- 15.10 – Remain in my love (abide; rest)
- 15.14 – You are my friends if you do what I command.
- 1 John 3.24 – those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them.
- Note the personal nature of the words. These are relational expressions (fellowship, friendship, remain, manifest myself) of God's love being personally known and felt by us. The reward of obedience isn't getting the Excellent Conduct Award, in other words, God's approval. Rather, it's friendship, fellowship and intimacy with God.
- Appl – A reason some of you are not that motivated to serve God or you think Christianity is boring or you don't want to participate in spiritual activities is b/c there's an area of disobedience in your life...also, a reason why some of you can't seem to motivate that

spouse, friend, child to really pursue God is b/c there's an area in that person's life of disobedience.

- Disobedience greatly reduces the experience of God's closeness to the point that the person sees all things spiritual as only religious activity. They see the church as an institution and Christians as out of touch, dull, judgmental people.
- Conclusion: God has made some extreme promises in these texts – His fellowship, friendship, love, and presence.

Obedience means we...

- Take Him at His Word
 - 14.15, 21 – obey my commandments; 14.23 – will do what I say;
 - You have to move from knowing what Jesus said to believing what He said. You must have a firm confidence and steadfast assurance that God can be trusted and He will keep His promises.
 - Appl – God has given some of you promises & you're wavering. Promises about your life, children, direction, etc. . You're meddling or muddling around. You're looking to another source or you're very discouraged.
 - Specific Biblical promises
 - Matt.6
 - John 14.12
 - You're saying, "I just don't know...I know what the Word says...I know about the promise He's given me..." Then, you wonder why God seems so far from you. The experience of God's love and presence is determined, in part, by our willingness to take Him at His Word.
 - By taking Him at His Word, I have opened my life to the establishment of God's activity in my heart.
 - Ill of our finances & trusting God's Word based on our history with God.

- His Word isn't folksy wisdom from a wise old uncle. It's God's words.
- Conversely, if I don't take God at His Word by doubting and fear, I'm kicking Him out of my life. This isn't loosing my salvation, but loosing His presence.
 - Illust - Your house is surrounded by vicious dogs. Inviting a friend over who is strong, and kind. You no longer think about the evil around you. But, then you kick Him out of your house and then wonder why you've lost joy, hope & peace.
 - You're telling God to leave. You believe His word for others but not yourself.
 - Ex.33.14-16 - God's presence is what set the people of Israel apart.
 - When God's presence is with you there's nothing to fear! Is.43.2 is an incredible promise, but it's activated when you take God at His Word.
 - Ps 23 - Even though I walk through the valley...
- Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit
 - 14.16 - And I will as the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the HS, who leads into all truth.
 - You obey the movement and inner workings of the HS in your life. This is the way Adam & Eve originally interacted with God. God didn't tell them everything to do, but they knew what to do b/c of the Spirit inside of them.
 - Cliff's "Shades of Gray" message. Areas of sin.
 - Taking a risk or moving in a new direction.
 - Citizen of the Year in southern Brazoria County. He following the Spirit. Brazoria County Cavalry.
 - Job, relationship, conversation, or an area in your life you need to explore - when you take those risks you always find the Lord's presence.

- Illust – Treasure Hunt at the Mall; passing out helium balloons; a clue was mowhawks; felt led to go to entrance; lady with 3 boys & 2 with mowhawks; husband just laid off & wanted to prayer to get into police academy. She experienced the presence of God as did we.
- **Two Areas:** 1. Where are the areas of great positive growth in your life and you sense the Lord’s pleasure or calling – follow the HS; he is leading you into truth.
- 2. Where are the areas of fear, hurt & frustration that keep surfacing? They manifest through anger, depression, addictions, obsessions, performance? Those are doors the Holy Spirit has opened to you.
 - Illustr – trying to close a door that won’t shut
 - It’s an invitation from God to go into the dark place experience His light/presence.
 - Paul Young’s testimony – author of The Shack. Paul is The Shack. The experience the character had over several days was the experience he had over 13 years. Paul was both forced and chose to walk through the door into the Great Sadness.
 - Because he followed the leadership of the HS, those of us who benefited from the book have been ushered into God’s love in a new way.
 - Appl – your obedience to the HS will not only mean new freedom for you, but for others too.
 - What area is the HS highlighting?
- Love each other
 - 14.15 – if you love me, obey my commandments; 15.12,17 – this is my command: Love each other.
 - He didn’t leave a lot of commands, esp as you compare them to the OT. Jesus said, “The world will know you are my followers by your love.” Paul said, “these three remain, faith, hope & love. But, the greatest of these is love.” Peter said,

“Love each other deeply, b/c love covers over a multitude of sins.” John said, “if we love one another God lives in us.”

- The disciples were about to begin a new step in their journey of faith and Jesus would not be there to coach them through it. He wouldn't be there to mend the relational strains and address interpersonal disagreements. Within a short time, the disciple's relationship with each other would endure the fires of separation, persecution, theological division, and financial hardship.
- Jesus tells them AND US to contend for love with each other. There will always be strains and opportunities for division, but you must persevere in love with each other.
- Demonstrate the virtues of 1 Cor.13 in your love – *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.*
- We are a family. We aren't a group of loosely associated friends who gather at 200 Willow Drive on Sundays. We're brother and sisters in Christ who are devoted to one another.
- Overarching our family is this conviction that we are not going to allow there to be division between us. Healthy families work through problems and enjoy the benefits of stronger relationships that follow. Unhealthy families ignore or fight, or blame or run away from issues. Unhealthy families have a take it or leave it attitude. Whereas, healthy families humble themselves, seek reconciliation, forgives & blesses other family members.
- The outcome of this type of love is 14.23. Jesus will make His home among us. When we're at home with each other God is at home with us.

Conclusion

1 John 2.3-6 – ³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ 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. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Do you want to love God? What is His love language? Obey Him; Take Him at His Word; Follow the HS; love, love, love each other.