

IS OBEDIENCE TO MAN BETTER THAN DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD?

Jeremiah 35:13-14

Introduction: To obey God always is a decision one must make, it is not automatic. To believe in Jesus Christ, to attend worship, to pray, to read God's Word, to witness, all cause one to have to make a decision, to choose. Then there is the choice between what a person wants or does not want to do, to please somebody else or to do what one wants for him/herself. In making choices, always something is not chosen. Just how important is it to be obedient to God? Isn't it true that everybody at one time or other disobeys God? So, which is better, to obey people and in doing so, to disobey God or to obey God and disappoint people?

I. JONADAB FOLLOWED TRIBAL TRADITION FAITHFULLY

1. God's people were not to build, possess houses, sow or plant, but to dwell in tents and drink no wine.
 - For 300 years the people kept the tradition.
 - God used Jonadab's loyalty to family traditions to show Israel's lack of loyalty to God.
2. People are loyal to commands of other people.
 - People are loyal to governments and their political parties.
 - People are loyal to their leaders, some even dying in being loyal.
 - People are loyal to religious traditions (Amish, Menonites, etc.).
 - Each religion believing it has the only right system.
3. People are disloyal to the commands of God.
 - Of what generation have the people ever forsook their sins and turned to God?
 - Remember Noah's generation?
 - Of what generation have the people bowed before almighty God and asked for mercy?
 - Of what generation have the people obeyed God's commands?

II. CONTRASTS EXISTS BETWEEN OBEDIENT TO MAN AND DISOBEDIENT TO GOD

1. Where does the authority of command come from?
 - The Rechabites and Jonadab obeyed human commands.
 - Israel disobeyed divine commands.
 - What worries us more, pleasing others or pleasing God?
 - To persuade others to obey, who is it they will be more afraid of, God or man? Man, of course.
 - All mankind is more aware of displeasing others than they are of God, even God's preachers.
2. What kind of commands does man receive?
 - Jonadab obeyed commands not necessary for salvation.
 - Israel disobeyed commands dealing with their salvation.
 - Which commands can be relaxed or dispersed?
 - Which, if disobeyed, would bring dishonor to God.
 - Where do YOU stand in God's sight? Where is your true loyalty?

CONCLUSION:

1. Most people regard man's command's over God's.
 - No man-made custom, rule, duty, etc., or the faithful observance of them by people can take the place of God's commands.
 - All the zeal, energy, etc. one can put into his/her own interests will count for a single thing when he/she stands before God.
 - God must have all of us, He will not share.
2. Some regard God and not man.
 - Many refuse to acknowledge any human obligations with the reason of total dedication to God.
 - Observing their OWN laws, etc., claiming their behavior is God blessed.
 - Such can be called parasites.
3. Some have united both God's and man's commands.
 - "Render to Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's.."
 - People must live in this world with other people.
 - Government is God-ordained and rules are God-blessed.
4. Let the believer obey God first, and then not be led astray by the things of man.
5. God must be first in the believer's life, nobody else.