

I John – Obedience  
Johnathan Cleveland  
I John 1:5 – 2:6  
May 9th, 2021

**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**One of the things John attempts in this letter is to clarify obedience**

This is another area we frequently misunderstand.

\*What have you understood obedience to mean?

**Obedience is not about being a better person**

It is about fellowship with God.

Read and discuss I John 1:5-10(ESV)

*<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About people?

\*How do obedience and fellowship correlate? Can you have one without the other?

\*Why is it important to be honest with God about our sin? How does strong fellowship with him help in this?

**Obedience is not about fear of punishment**

There is a beautiful connection between knowing and loving God and walking like he walked

Read and discuss I John 2:1-6(ESV)

*<sup>2</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. <sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About people?

\*What is John pointing us to in these verses?

\*When have you made obedience all about avoiding sin OR acted like you didn't have sin or it was no big deal? What was the effect on your koinonia with God?

**Obedience is less about stopping something and more about starting something**

:: Trusting that Jesus knows what we need

:: Trusting Jesus enough to get honest

:: Trusting Jesus enough to step into the adventure

\*Is there one of these he is asking you to start doing?

\*What do we miss when we make obedience about morality?

\*What can you picture the adventure of koinonia looking like in your life right now?

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\*** [The Road](#) by Fritz von Uhde

**Song for reflection** [Tethered](#) by Phil Wickham