

I John – Overcoming the World

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I John 5:1-5

May 23rd, 2021

Reflection & Discussion Questions

John wants us to understand that obedience is about freedom

Obedience is not about restriction.

*How have you seen obedience as a 'so that' word?

*Have you felt restricted by obedience in some capacity?

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

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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

*What does John say obedience is not?

*What commandments is John referring to in these verses?

God's commandments aren't the true treasure

In keeping them, we experience what our heart most longs for.

*What is the relationship between obedience and fellowship with God?

*What can happen when we misunderstand this connection?

John isn't saying obedience is easy

He is saying that the commandments aren't oppressive because they are rooted in love.

*How does this love of God make obedience less burdensome?

*When is a time you have experienced his love in a new way through obedience?

Faith itself is the victory

It is the goal and victory, not our behavior.

*How is faith – your believing, your growing relationship with God – the victory?

*How is John helping us see obedience as an invitation to life as God intends?

*What is God saying to you about obedience and freedom right now?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Sacratissima Misericordiae](#) by José Luis Castrillo

Song for reflection [How Long](#) by Wayfarer