

Obeying His Commands

Why was this Epistle Written to the Church?

That we would know God & His will, practice righteousness, experience fellowship, and live lives full of joy!

Christ : The Chief Cornerstone

He is the eternal, incarnate, Word-of Life (1 John 1:1-2); our faithful, just, forgiver of sins (1 John 1:9); our righteous Advocate (1 John 2:1), and propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2)! He is the source of knowledge, the imputer of righteousness, the foundation for our fellowship, and the provider of joy!

Holiness, Fellowship and Forgiveness

Christians have potential through the power of the Holy Spirit to choose to not sin (1 Corinthians 10:13); however, we still choose on occasion to walk in darkness (1 John 1:8,10). Though Christians are justified and in a permanent state of positional forgiveness (Romans 5:1), our sins fracture our relationship with God (Isaiah 59:1-2) and with other Christians, such that forgiveness is needed for reconciliation and restoration of fellowship (1 John 1:9, Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15; 18:21-22).

1 John 2:3-6

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

⁴ He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Conditional Truth

- 1 John 2:3-4
 - **If** we keep His commandments, **then** _____
 - **If** we don't keep His commandments, **then** _____
 - Interpretations:
 1. **For Christians** _____
 2. **For non-Christians.** _____
- Matthew 7:21-23
 - **If** you do the will of the Father, **then** _____
 - Clarification :
 1. *Ephesians 2:8-10* _____
 2. *John 6:29* _____
 - Interpretations :
 1. *Isaiah 64:5-6* _____
 2. *2 Corinthians 13:5* _____

What should Christians think or feel about God's commandments?

- 1 John 5:3
- Psalm 19:7-11
- Question:
 - What do you think or feel about God's commandments?

What should be a Christian's posture before God?

- Mark 10:35-45
- Philippians 2:1-11
- Questions :
 - Are you submitting to Jesus in faith, trusting in Him as your Lord, and willfully, joyfully, without grumbling, obeying His commandments? OR
 - Are you trusting in your good works, making yourself Lord and doing what you want to do?
 - What is your posture before God?

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What are His commandments?

- Matthew 22:34-40
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-5
 - Leviticus 19:18
- What enables a Christian to love (Romans 5:1-5)? _____

The Great Shema : Application

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9 _____
- Deuteronomy 6:4 [1]

שמע ישראל יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one

עד = _____

Love Thy Neighbor : Application

- Leviticus 19:9-10 _____
- Leviticus 19:11 _____
- Leviticus 19:12 _____
- Leviticus 19:13 _____
- Leviticus 19:14 _____
- Leviticus 19:15 _____
- Leviticus 19:16 _____
- Leviticus 19:17 _____
- Leviticus 19:18 _____

This list is not exhaustive, but representative!

Application Questions

- To what extent do you want to obey God’s commandments?
- To what extent do you enjoy obeying God’s commandments?
- To what extent are you obeying God’s commandments?
- To what extent do you view yourself as a servant and act accordingly?
- Is there an area in which you’re kicking at the goads?
- Is there any area in which you need to confess sin?
- Is there anything that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do?

End Note

[1] It is claimed by some that the two letters *ayin* (ע) and *dalet* (ד) are enlarged in existing Hebrew manuscripts, and that these two letters, when taken together, spell that word ‘ed which means *witness*, thus indicating the import of those who profess faith in God to be His witnesses . For example, see:

http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Scripture/Torah/The_SHEMA/the_shema.html

<http://michaelcjabradford.wordpress.com>