

Growing “Obeying”

Week 5 – October 30, 2022

Scripture: John 14:23-24; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Have you ever tried to do something strictly out of obligation, duty, or maybe even just because you felt bad for someone? Was it difficult to complete?

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Watch the video posted here together: www.kensingtonchurch.org/growing Each week has a short video about the weekends message.

Discuss the following context:

Love is a powerful motivator. In **John 14:23-24** Jesus says, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” When love replaces duty in terms of our submission to Jesus, we move from religion to relationship. Our obedience to God’s word is not purely because an authority told us we have to. We do it because he loves us, and his love motivates us to love him. Genuine love always leads to action.



Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Consider the word “obey” in **John 14:23-24**. Often we think of obeying as negative – maybe we take it as derogatory, or it makes us feel like a child, even the feelings of being “less than” or being “quieted” could be stirred up. Our human experience says obeying is not for the benefit of the one doing the obeying, but more for the one giving the directive. When Jesus asks us to obey, how could it be for our benefit and not his?
2. Just as love was a powerful motivator that caused God to send Jesus (**John 3:16**), our love for him should become a powerful motivator that leads us to want to follow and obey him.
 - a. Have you ever experienced a time in your life when you obeyed all the rules and felt empty?
 - b. What happens inside us when love replaces duty?
 - c. Obedience happens, not by trying harder, but in actually loving God more. How can we love God more? What challenges do you face in putting **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** to action?
3. It's a journey we won't get right all of the time, but when we start this journey – *believing in God, seeking God, knowing God, loving God, obeying God* – we start to live a transformed life. Think over the last 5 weeks of this series and consider where you are in this journey. Do you have a person or community you can journey with? If you do not, is there a step you could take? How can your life look different if you enter into or continue this journey with others?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Pray a prayer of gratitude that God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to us. Sit in silence for a bit, and ask God what he is saying to you personally through this Growing series.