

Obedience:

**Submission to another's
authority.**



Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15) As Christians, we supposedly live in obedience to Christ, but I can tell you that too many couples do not demonstrate obedience to Christ in their marriage relationship. They too often live very selfish, self-centered lives and their marriage is not a testimony to God's love. Do we die to self and put our spouse first? Do we honor marriage? Do we serve our spouse? Or do we judge our spouse and treat him or her worse than an enemy? How can we claim to love Christ and treat our spouse badly? The Bible tells us that to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22), but how often do we give and serve at church and then punish our spouse for some slight, rather than forgive?

Folks, we need to demonstrate our love for Christ through our obedience! What does that mean in marriage? It means that we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly - giving grace to our spouse when he or she doesn't do things right. It means that we confront sin; humbly and in love, not by judging or attacking our spouse's character. It means that we take responsibility for poor behavior rather than becoming defensive or justifying our wrong. It means that we communicate in a way that will build our spouse up rather than tear them down.

Obey Christ, love your spouse as Christ wants you to, dying to self and giving to him or her. Seek to bless your spouse, building them up and seek their good, always being gracious.

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Christians are to Obey Christ's Commands - www.fortifiedmarriages.com/

Article to check out: *Obedience* by Henry Cloud & John Townsend - www.cloudtownsend.com

Book to check out: *A Life of Obedience* by Andrew Murray

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