

Do You Love Christ?
John 14:21-23

Scripture tells us that the ultimate expression of our love for Jesus and for God is to obey His Word regardless of the consequences. We are to submit to His will for our lives. We are promised blessings for obeying His commands and the penalties for disobedience are clearly spelled out.

Yet the concept of submission to authority has been under attack in our country for decades. The 60's mantra of not trusting anyone over 30 has warped our perceptions of authority. Our youth are constantly exposed to the message the authority is bad and we ought to be free to do whatever we please. TV and movies rarely present authority figures in a good light.

Sociologist Robert Bellah wrote that 81 percent of the American people also say they agree with the statement "an individual should arrive at his or her own religious belief independent of any church or synagogue." They believe they can "worship" a God of their own creation, conforming him to their wishes and their definitions of right and wrong."

So the question then becomes will we submit ourselves to God? Will we love Him in any way approaching the sacrificial love He showed us?

1. God's Love For Us:

- a. _____ (1 Kings 10:9/Romans 8:38-39)
- b. _____ (Romans 5:8/John 3:16)

4. Our Love For Him is Conditional:

- a. _____ (Joshua 22:5)
- b. _____ (1 Peter 2:21)
- c. _____ (John 14:21-23)

8. If We Follow His Words, There Are Consequences:

- a. _____ (Hebrews 12:11)
- b. _____ (2 Corinthians 7:11)

11. A Sampling of His Commands:

- a. To Tithe (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- b. To Witness (Ezekiel 3:17)
- c. To Mature Ourselves and Others
 - i. Our Children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
 - ii. Other Believers (2 Timothy 2:2)
- d. To Submit to Authorities
 - i. The Government (Romans 13:1-7)
 - ii. Our Spiritual Elders (Hebrews 13:17)

20. The Cost of Disobedience

- a. _____ (Numbers 32:23)
- b. _____ (Isaiah 59:1-2)

23. So Will You Love God? (1 Corinthians 10:13)