

Obey with Only One Exception

By: David Sproule

In our postmodern world and ever-adapting culture, the concept of (and even the word) “obedience” is offensive to many and rejected as “oppressive” or “dictatorial.” Sometimes the discontent toward that subject even makes its way into the church and into Christian homes. Yet, the Bible gives clear instructions where obedience must be practiced in the Christian life. But is there ever an exception?

The Bible tells wives to obey their husbands. This can be pretty unpopular to mention in a wedding ceremony or marriage counseling, but Scripture is very clear. “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord” (Col. 3:18; cf. Eph. 5:22; 1 Pet. 3:1). “Older women” are instructed to “admonish the young women to...[be] obedient to” (NKJV) or “subject to” (NASB) “their husbands” (Tit. 2:3-5). Is that in all circumstances? Or are there any exceptions?

The Bible tells children to obey their parents. These verses are regular reminders to kids at home: “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” (Col. 3:20). This is essential for children as they “Honor [their] father and mother” (Eph. 6:1). Are there any exceptions to children obeying their parents?

The Bible tells church members to obey their elders. Again, in our society today, even Christians push back against this, but the Bible terminology is even stronger on this. Not only are we to “respect” our elders and “esteem them very highly” (1 Thess. 5:12-13, ESV), we are to

“obey” them and “be submissive” (Heb. 13:17). These are not optional requests but are required commands. But, are there any exceptions?

The Bible tells citizens to obey their civil rulers. Even under the tyrannical Roman emperor Nero, Christians were commanded, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities” and not “resist” (Rom. 13:1-2). Rather than considering this to be optional, “you must be subject” (13:5). “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake” (1 Pet. 2:13). But, again, are there any exceptions?

It’s interesting that humans seem to always be looking for the exception in rules and instructions. In these cases above, God gives ONE exception to the commands of obedience and submission. When commanded by rulers to stop preaching the gospel, the apostles affirmed, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). The ONLY exception to wives obeying their husbands, to children obeying their parents, to church members obeying their elders, to citizens obeying their civil rulers is if such would cause them to disobey God. Obeying God is foremost (cf. 1 Cor. 7:19b)! But, if it does not violate the law of God, then one must obey.

More About the Heart of a Soul Seeker

By: Selected

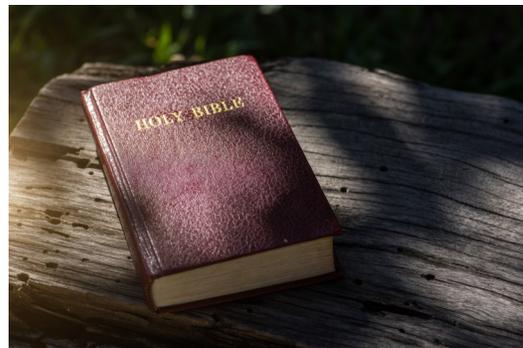
It was a few weeks ago that we spent time looking at Paul and his love for the lost. That article ended with a long list that showed his heart when he established the church in Thessalonica. The last paragraph indicated we would write more later. Paul's life imitated the life of Jesus, and Paul encouraged others to do likewise (1 Cor. 11:1).

Have you ever noticed how much love and devotion is shown by a mother as she tends to an infant. Paul did. He used this picture to encourage the church he established to have the right attitude. "We were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children" (1 Thess. 2:7). We put on the whole armor of God, and we are armed with the sword of the spirit which defeats others. However, that sword is not for decapitation of others who are wrapped up in false teaching. This sword is designed to be used for a heart transplant. As you teach others and seek to bring them to Christ hear these words of Paul and be gentle in dealing with the hearts of those you teach.

Timothy was with Paul when the church was being established in the city of Macedonia. He, Paul and Silas were there to answer the Macedonian call. He was so young and unskilled, but what an example Paul was in the way he taught. How important was it to be gentle in teaching others? Hear these words written years later to Timothy when he was much older. "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the

truth..." (2 Tim. 2:23-25). Read those verses again, meditate upon them as you are studying with the lost—not quarrel, be gentle, patient, humility. Change your heart before you seek to change the heart of those who are lost.

Paul uses another example showing how we should teach the lost. "You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged everyone of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom" (1 Thess. 2:10-12). Read these words again and meditate on them—devout, just, blamelessly, exhorted, comforted and charged you. The figure is of an older child, and the emphasis is on a father having a serious talk with his son. It is serious, not because of a glaring mistake the son has made, but a time when the future of the son matters. The future of the lost matters! Think about this. Pray about yourself, and it will change how you deal with the lost.



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly Potluck luncheon with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a covered dish/dessert to share.

Sun: March 8: Youth Devo after evening worship will be here at the building hosted by the McCoys. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sun. March 15: Baby shower honoring Candace Drake from 2-4pm here at the building.

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Veronica Serenil who had surgery last week to remove cancerous lymph nodes.

Jeff Cannady who had foot surgery.

Janis Fossati, Willie Fossati's mother and Nancy Fortenberry's sister, who will be having medical tests done.

Eddie Serenil who responded to the invitation last week.

Craig Dolan who responded to the invitation last week.

Lonnie Horton, Benny's brother, who needs surgery for his clogged arteries.

2026 Pocket Directory

Please review the pocket directory located on the table in the foyer. Please make any corrections or put a check mark by your name if correct. Thank you!

Service Roster

Week of March 1, 2026

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jake Jacobs
Song Leader..... Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Barry Lehtinen

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... James Cammock
Cup..... Clifton Rutherford
Offering..... Benny Horton
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Bryce Dolan

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering..... James Cammock/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader..... Randy D'Herde
Devotional..... Benny Horton

Other

Prepare Communion for March..... Craig Dolan

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Libby Jobes..... Mar. 4
Josie Terry..... Mar. 6

New Bible Quarter Begins Today!

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure
hidden in a field, which a man found and hid;
and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he
has...

Matthew 13:44

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of February 22, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....56
A.M. Worship.....95
P.M. Worship.....57
Wednesday Worship.....54

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

Southwest School of Bible Studies

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.