

Love, Honor and Obedience Part 3

KJV John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Jesus said if we love Him, we will obey Him!

Obedience is the act of submitting to authority; it's listening and acting upon what is heard!

James 1:22 ... "Be doers of The Word and not hearers only, doing so we deceive ourselves."

23 If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror,

24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

Eli's sons were taught The Word of God and what their holy role was as priests, yet they **disobeyed, rebelled and sinned against God!**

Have you forgotten your role as a priest of God?

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

We are to display the excellencies of God! The superior way of life and living under God Laws.

1 Samuel 2:17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt.

They were **hearers of The Word and not doers, not displaying God's excellence!**

1 Samuel 2:22 Now, Eli was very old, and he had heard everything that his sons were doing to all Israel and that they were sleeping with the women who served at the gate of the tent of meeting.

23 So he asked them, "Why are you doing such things? I hear about your wicked ways from all these people.

This type of behavior is wicked because it twists excellency!

I say this because it's not obvious to everyone God hates this behavior!

1 Samuel 2:25 If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?"

Hophni and Phineas were **sinning** against God, they were **disobeying** and **dishonoring** God as **priests called, trained & anointed** to represent Him!

Not walking or displaying God's excellency to the people!

1 Samuel 2:29 Why do you show no respect for my sacrifices and grain offerings that I have commanded people to make in my dwelling place? Why do you honor your sons more than me by making yourselves fat on the best of all the sacrifices offered by my people Israel?

30 "Therefore, the LORD God of Israel declares: I certainly thought that your family and your father's family would always live in my presence. "But now the LORD declares: I promise that I will honor those who honor me, and those who despise me will be considered insignificant.

If there is anyone who was supposed to reveal God's **excellency** on earth it's men of God!

God **dishonors** those who think little of **(Him)**, His Word and constantly disobey Him!

How does He do it? By ignoring their prayers, offerings, and sacrifices!

And by **not responding** to their needs and **removing His (excellency)** His **divine and glorious presence** from their midst.

1 Samuel 2:31 The time is coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father's house so that no one will grow old in your family.

The KJV says "**cut off thine arm**" which means **no sons will be born** in the family.

Sons are the **strength of their father**, having many sons makes a father and a house strong, having no sons makes the father and the family weak ends the family name, lineage and place on earth.

1 Sam 4:11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

The Ark represented **The Word**, The glory, the presence, excellence and the power of God among the people!

The **Ten Commandments** (The Word of Almighty God) was stored in The Ark!

Now Eli has no sons, no The Ark, no Word and the excellence and glory of God is gone from the people.

Israel is now powerless to defeat their enemies.

It was the glory of God on the builders, engineers and carpenters that allowed them to build with excellence.

Now their civilization is on the brink of collapse, sound familiar?

The **sins** of the priests the sons of Eli caused the glory to be removed from Israel!