

Confident enough to obey

Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION:

- We have spent the last three weeks discussing the proper posture for approaching God's Word. We have discussed five specific attitudes. Who can name them? *Have a prize for the one that can name the most.*
 - Answers: Prayerfully, humbly, studiously, desperately and expectantly.
 - Who can come up with some other attitudes we should consider?
- Today we will wrap up our series. Hopefully you are motivated to make *starting the day with the Bible on your lap* your top priority in 2021, but there are two more attitudes we need to include in our list.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Approach God's Word **Confidently**.
 - a. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. This is possibly the most important passage in all the Bible. If these verses are true, then the rest of the Bible should be taken very seriously. What do we learn in these verses?
 - b. God is the Author. "Inspiration of God" means "God-breathed" and teaches us that God is the Author of His Word. Hundreds and hundreds of times the Bible read, "And God said" or "Thus says the Lord" testifying that what we have are the actual words of the Lord.
 - c. If God is the Author we can trust what it says. God is perfect; He makes no mistakes. This means that God's Word is infallible.
 - d. God's Word is profitable. Specifically, Paul lists four areas for us to consider. What the bottom line? God's Word is for your good!
 - e. God's Word will prepare you. In verse 17 we see that if a man or woman allows themselves to be shaped by God's Word, they will be "perfect," completely equipped for the issues of life. God's Word is sufficient. Whatever you may face, the Bible has the answer.
 - f. When we consider all that these two verses teach us, we can approach God's Word with extreme confidence.
 - g. NOTE: After salvation, this is the most important decision you will ever make. Do you completely trust God's Word in every area of life? Will you allow God's Word to structure your life, as opposed to structuring the Bible around your life? If so, you are ready for our next point.
2. Approach God's Word **Obediently**.
 - a. "Obedience" is typically no one's favorite word. Throughout our lives we are told to obey. Obey your parents. Obey your teacher. Obey your coach. Obey your landlord. Obey your doctor. Obey the government. Why would anyone want to obey one more thing?
 - b. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13. Pay special attention to the last phrase of verse 13.

- c. There are five rapid-fire requirements that are outlined in this verse: fear, walk, serve, obey, and love. They function like links in a chain, or like distinct notes of obedience in the music of your life.
- d. But here is what we often miss: “for thy good.” These words revolutionize this passage.
 - i. Here’s the point: We were made for obedience.
 - ii. The One who flung the stars into being loves you too much to leave you to yourself. Just as there are physical laws like gravity built into the universe, there are moral laws you were born to honor.
 - iii. We can trust Him. If we refuse, we won’t just be breaking His laws; we’ll be breaking ourselves against them.
- e. Read the following verses to further make the point: Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22; 1 John 2:4-5.
- f. ILL: Fish are made for the water. Now imagine a fish who decides he’s tired of being restricted to water. He wants to be “free,” to experience the joy of life on land. So he manages to flop around and “free” himself onto dry ground – which turns out to be a death sentence. Why? He was designed for water, not for air.
- g. Biblical obedience is not about keeping a set of rules; it’s about living in accordance with our design, in harmony with our Maker. Because He wants us to flourish, He restricts us in order to truly free us.
- h. A disobedient believer makes no more sense than a disenchanting fish.

APPLICATION:

- Put all the attitudes on the board. Ask them to silently evaluate themselves in each and to identify the one attitude they need to address the most.
- DISCUSS: Pick two or three (depending on time) of the attitudes on the board and discuss how one might begin to improve that area in their life.