

Obeying God

"And God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

Genesis 1:3

When God speaks, He expects to be obeyed. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth." You see the power of God's Word in creation. As far as we can tell, the only ones who have had the audacity to disobey God are angels and people. Only humans have an opportunity for redemption. Since God took the effort to save us, we do well to listen to Him.

Only an individual with a false sense of security feels he can ignore God when He speaks. You are not responsible for what you do not know; God does not judge you for being ignorant. He only holds you accountable for what you do know. But beware of willful ignorance. If you could have and should have known, but did not make the effort, you are guilty.

There may be times when you appear obedient while being disobedient. For example, you may say you repent when you really don't, like the person who says he is sorry for his crime and means by it that he is sorry that he got caught. Likewise, you are not necessarily pleasing God just because those who love you affirm what you do. Their love for you, or their reluctance to alter similar behavior in their own lives, can prejudice their council. In your heart you know whether you are as close to God as you ought to be; keep your ears open to your conscience, your heart open to God and your eyes in the Word.