

CHAPTER 7

Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

Foundational Review

In our last session we moved on from the basic level of Christianity as most people experience it. We explored how the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship actually works, how the gift from Jesus of the Holy Spirit brings internal/external changes promised by God. Let's review one last time this entire relationship in detail just to review what we have covered in our first six sessions.

Level I

The gift is Jesus/Cross. Understand that this is much bigger than a simple sacrifice. We choose to accept this gift from our heart of love responding to His heart of love. (Matt 22:37) We respond by accepting it by Faith, publicly displayed in our baptism.

Level II

The gift of the Holy Spirit has multiple parts – conviction, teaching, heart change, life, abiding, gifting, empowering, leading, group ministry, group growth in the body, character transformation. Our choice is made by choosing our mind set (Micah 6:8 vs. 1 John 2:16). We respond in faith by abiding in the Spirit in Hope.

Level III

What about Level III? What happens here by Faith? Please realize that this third part is a very important part. Our Faith activated in Romans 6:17 as "obedience from the heart" results in 2 Peter 1:4 in "partaking of the divine nature – which means developing a personality like the Father. There is much more to this third part, so much so that we will spend an entire session talking about it. But first we need to fill in some of the details of Level II in a more intense fashion, starting tonight. But let me ask you first, did you read Ephesians 3:14-19? READ it now and follow this outline of its principle parts.

Father	Holy Spirit	Jesus Christ
Riches of Grace (Gifts)	Strengthened with power Inner man (heart)	Dwell (abide) in [our] hearts

Rooted and Grounded in love (accept and receive)
Comprehend and Know the Love (abide and grow)
Filled up to fullness of God (act and become like)

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)

This is basic Christianity.

Ephesians 3:14-19

These verses are a complete and concise summary of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. You now know much more than most people will ever know about their Christianity.

In this session let's add one last component: to be complete. This session has one message which is a very simple concept. And in the process we will do a hidden TEST over all that we have covered before. And in each session we note these basic concepts in our black box on the very first page – to remind us of the Basics of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship that we have with God.

Chapter 7: Do You Know You Are to Obey the Commandments?

Introduction

If you read Chapter 7 in the book, then you know about the teacups and the cookbooks. Now it is your turn. Write the name of an object that you have held on to in a safe and secure place, because it is a memory of someone precious to you.

(From the chapter: This is a **TEST QUESTION**)
What do we call these precious items? Why?

QUESTION #1:

What does the biblical word “keep” mean? Choose ONE; explain your choice.

- a. Obeying
- b. Holding close
- c. Hiding in secret
- d. Owning
- e. Remembering
- f. Treasuring

QUESTION #2:

READ Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. How do we SDA's commonly use the word “keep” when referring to ourselves?



Ten Commandments – Short Form

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| I (No other gods) | V (Father and Mother) |
| II (No images) | VI (Not murder) |
| III (Name in vain) | VII (Not adultery) |
| IV (Sabbath) | VIII (Not Steal) |
| | IX (Not lie) |
| | X (Not covet) |

Let's consider three concepts

First Concept: The Ten Commandments and what they describe

QUESTION #1:

Explain how the Ten Commandments are a... (Each expression has a slightly different focus. Explain each in simple terms.)

- a. Description of the character of God (clue: Psalms 119:3)

- b. Description of the People of God who follow in His ways

- c. Description of those who are in a relationship with God and choose to be partakers (clue: 2 Peter 1:4)

- d. Description of those who love God (clue: John 15:10)

The 10 Commandments describe:

- Who God is
- Who His people are
- and the relationship

Second Concept: The Will of God

QUESTION #1:

The Will of God for your life: how important is it to you?

- a. READ Hebrews 10:36. To receive what was promised? What was promised?

- b. READ I John 2:17. To live forever? Is the will of God something you think you might need to know and do?

This is the second **TEST QUESTION**. From all the material that we have studied up to now, choose your own personal Scripture and answer the following question:

- c. What do you think is the will of God for you personally? (Choose your own Scripture and explain it)

THINK IT THROUGH:

Can you carry out the Will of God for you – by yourself? (see Romans 7:18-22)



Third Concept: The Power to Do = Love

QUESTION #1:

READ Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-40. What motivator is strong enough to make the will of God happen in your life? What did Jesus say?

QUESTION #2:

READ Zech. 4:6. Why love? Why not physical strength? Why not moral fortitude? Why not cultural correctness? Why not intellectual assent and agreement? Why are these any or all of these not enough of a motivator?

QUESTION #3:

Why love? Because...

- a. John 3:16 – LOOK AT the story of Mary at Simon’s Feast in Luke 7:40-50. Notice especially the parable Jesus told.

- 1. READ Luke 7:42. What question did Jesus ask of Simon?

- 2. What was the answer?

The first reason we love is because we are loved. – 1 John 4:19.

- b. LOOK AT Luke 15:11-32. Review the story of the Prodigal Son, especially the attitude of the older brother and the father’s words.

- 1. READ Luke 15:32. What reason did the father give for the celebration?

- 2. Why did the father refer to the younger brother as “this brother of yours”?

The second reason we love is because we are family; “members of the household of God” – Eph. 2:19

- c. LOOK AT Luke 10:30-37. Review the story of the Good Samaritan.

- 1. READ Luke 10:33. Why did the Samaritan do what he did?

2. What cultural, physical, social, economical reason did he have?

3. READ Matthew 25:40. Whom does God love? Whom does God want us to love?

4. READ Leviticus 19:34; 1 John 2:2. Why show compassion for them?

The third reason to love is because they are fellow human beings, our neighbors – Leviticus 18:19

Think It Through

Does God love you? Do you love God? Do you love those whom God loves?

Why we "keep" the commandments – (Fill in the blanks)

- a. Not because we try hard, but because we _____ hard. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
b. Because we treasure the _____ . (John 17:23)
c. Because it is an act of _____ . (Romans 12:1)

Take Home

Thought Questions: Three Basic Concepts

a. Rethink: Why do you "keep" the Sabbath holy?

b. What do you think: Keeping the Commandments and Having the Faith of Jesus – are these two ideas separate concepts or the same concept? How are they related?

c. Does God love you? Do you love God?

