

Consequences of Disobedience

As the children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, God gave them detailed instructions about what they should and shouldn't do AND He also told them the blessings and curses that they would experience depending on whether or not they obeyed these instructions. Last week we looked at the blessings of obedience; today we are going to look at the consequences of disobedience that Moses communicates. Deuteronomy makes it clear that God cares about whether or not His people obey or disobey. Though Christ has made the old covenant obsolete, God still cares deeply about whether or not we obey.

Opening Question: How were you disciplined as a child?

Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68

1. If Israel abandoned God and their covenant with Him, what would happen to them?
2. What was Moses' intention in these words?
3. Why is it important that anyone coming to this passage read it in the context of Deut. 28:1-14 (i.e. the blessings)?

Read Galatians 3:1-14

4. How does this passage speak to whether or not believers in Christ come under the curse that Moses described in Deut. 27-28?
5. What does this passage say about how one comes under God's blessings (v. 6-9, 14)?

Steve said:

We no longer need to think in terms of condemnation and being cursed. The gospel, the good news, is that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us. . . . So if we shouldn't think in terms of condemnation and curses, how ***should*** we think about disobedience? The New Testament suggests that ***we should think primarily in relational terms when we think about obedience and disobedience***. One of the dominant images that the New Testament uses is of the Church (the body of Christ) as a spiritual family. God is our Father and we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

6. What does it mean to think of disobedience and obedience in relational terms (with God and others)?

7. How might it affect how you think about disobedience if you remembered that it isn't so much breaking a rule in a rulebook, but a personal and relational offense to God that harms our relationship with God and others?

8. Read Galatians 6:7-8. What does this indicate about the consequence of disobedience for us?

Steve said:

Can you identify an area of disobedience in your life? If so you would be wise to contemplate what the consequences of that sin might be. How might your sin bring corruption to your fellowship with God, to the relationships that matter most to you, or to your usefulness to God in this world? Honestly, I think we need a sense of urgency when it comes to our disobedience. This is not a time for complacency or thinking, "Someday maybe I'll get around to obedience, but not today."

9. How might it help you to develop the practice that Steve suggests here?