

Obeying the Commands of Christ: Come to God (review) 9/19/2021

1. **Repent:** *After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news. (Mark 1:14-15)*

A.C.T. with true repentance:

1. **A** dmitting the God is right
 2. **C** onfessing that you are wrong
 3. **T** urning from it and running to God
2. **Come as a Child:** *"I assure you... unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3)*

Do you have enough humility, dependence, and trust to sustain your faith? Without these childlike qualities, we will never be able to grow the way God wants us to. Our character and competency will be unsustainable.

3. **Love God with All You Being:** *Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Mt. 22: 37-40*

Love is a decision of the will to act in light of a deep, abiding concern, and affection for the object of our love.

- We love God with all our **heart** when we love Him exclusively, Him and Him alone.
- We love God with all our **soul** when we find our satisfaction in Him more than any other person or thing. When we **refuse to accept** any other alternative.
- We love God with all our **mind** when we make decisions to obey His **every command** as we take captive every thought.
- We love God with all our **strength** when we use our nature talents, acquired skills, and spiritual gifts for Him as we persevere in the face of every trial no matter how much energy it takes.

4. **Receive the Holy Spirit:** *"After saying this, He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:22)*

- Receiving the Holy Spirit means living according to the fruit of the Spirit by his power and guidance, thereby becoming more like Christ. Ro 8:29
- It is something we accept when we are born again: John 3:3,7; I Peter 1:23—He takes up residence and then the transformation begins. Gal 5:25
- We don't need more of the H.S., he needs more of us! And when he gets more of us, then we can become more effective for him! Rom 8:29

5. **Enter through the Narrow Door:** *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Mat 7:13,14)*

- The thing that is hard about becoming saved is the pain from damaging your pride, because you have to admit you're wrong and let someone else tell you what to do. This goes against our old nature of independence.
- We don't like someone else telling us how to live. We know best and therefore it's too risky to let someone or something thing control us. Our personal peace, joy, and affluence depend on it.

6. **Worship in Spirit and in Truth:** *God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)*

- To worship God in spirit and in truth, then, is to declare that God is worthy of our reverence. We worship God based on the truth of who **He is**, the truth of who **we are**, the truth of what **God does**, and the truth of what is **going on in our world**.
- At times our worship is expressed through corporate singing, teaching, and giving. It is also expressed in our daily lives through prayer, Scripture reading, acts of kindness, gratitude, pure thoughts, and the like.
- "It means to come **honestly** to God to admit our **insufficiency** and utter **dependence** on Him. When we truly empty ourselves in our

pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency, confessing our sins with acts of repentance, we are then able to worship God in truth and with all of our spirit as born again believers.” Tom Blackaby

7. **Abide in Me:** *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”* Jn 15:4,9

“When our Lord says: Abide in me he is talking about the will, about the choices, the decisions we make. We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to him and keep ourselves in contact with him. This is what it means to abide in him.” (Boice)

Adoration: love God/others; pray/fast; time to listen to and talk w/ God
Bible -- schedule a regular time/ place for studying God's word; meditate
Interpersonal—join church, small group, Sunday school, min opportunity!
Disciples--“Go into all the world and make disciples...” Be one/make one!
Evangelism --“Go into all the world- preach the Gospel to every creature!”
Service—Use your spirit gifts, natural abilities, and acquired skills for Him
Sanctification—“If you love me, you will keep my commands” (Jn 14:15)

Q: Which of the areas above are you the weakest in? What steps can you take to bring you up to the next level of faithfulness and fruitfulness?

8. **Remember and Repent:** “Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken the love** you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Rev 2:4,5

- Remember how you used to spend time in His Word?
- Remember how you used to pray with a passionate heart?
- Remember the joy in getting together with other Christians?
- Remember how excited you were about telling others about Jesus?

Homework:

1. **Ask the Lord which areas of growth do you need to improve. (1-8)**
2. **Write down and schedule your next steps to reach these goals.**

Obeying the Commands of Christ: Christ as Lord: Deny Yourself 9/26

Now that we understand what it means and takes to come to God, the next step is to understand the role the **risen Lord wants to play in your life here and now.** His Lordship is central to the Christian life. He led by example. Jesus denied Himself, gave up His rights, submitted to His Father's will, and lived by new and more rigid standards than any religious leader before Him.

I. The Purpose and Meaning of life

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**”* John 1:1-3

II. What Lordship isn't

*“Not everyone who calls me Lord will enter God's kingdom. The only people who will enter are those who do what my Father in heaven wants. On that last Day many will call me Lord. They will say, ‘**Lord, Lord,** by the power of your name we spoke for God. And by your name we forced out demons and did many miracles.’ Then I will tell those people clearly, ‘Get away from me, you people who do wrong. **I never knew you.**’”* Mat 7:21-23

III. What Lordship is

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**”* Matt 16:24 **(R.A.W.)**

Deny: Resist the Flesh

Take Up: Accept the Calling

Follow: Walk in the Truth

Questions for Consideration:

- 1) How has God touched you this morning through His word?
- 2) What adjustments in your life do you need to make as a result?