

### Obedience to His Father

(Cont. from pg. 3) In the same text in Hebrews the writer, after citing the example of Jesus' obedience to God, adds, "and having been perfected became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). It is not enough to just rely on our relationship to God as His children, we must obey God, as children obey their parents. Later in the same book the writer compares the hardships that Christians must face to a type of training and discipline from God (Hebrews 12:4-11). This is likened to parental chastening of children. The writer sums



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up the point in saying, "...we have had human fathers who corrected [us], and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?" (Hebrews 12:9). The example of Jesus teaches us that we, like Him, must submit to and obey our Father. It isn't always easy, but we, like Jesus must live "as obedient children" (I Peter 1:14).

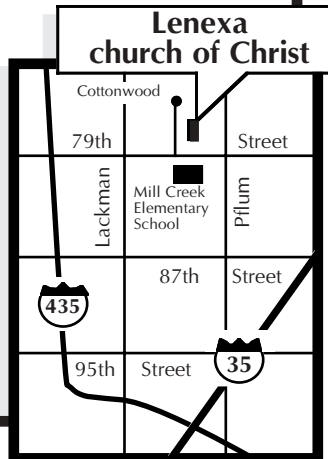


**7845 Cottonwood  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
(913) 631-6519**

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# The Lenexa EDIFIER

...Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. – Romans 14:19

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## Faithfulness In All Things

by Jim Stauffer

The Bible story is replete with examples of faithfulness. It is in fact a story of the relationship between God and man filled with examples of this trait. As in all things we strive to emulate the example God has set before us. We can easily see how much He has loved man when we learn that before the foundations of the world God planned our redemption (see Eph. 1:4-7). His plan further tells of His love and loyalty to His creation, because it involves the death of his only Son. That death was necessary to deliver those who believe (are faithful) from the appropriate wrath of God. Paul says in Rom. 3:24,25, that God set Jesus forth to be a propitiation for the sins of man. Let us consider seriously what God has done. He has remained so loyal and faithful to mankind even when man was unfaithful and disloyal to Him that He sacrificed His own Son to reconcile us to Him. That, my friend is a demonstration of faithfulness we will never see again. It is an example we should

keep ever before us. When we do, we too can be faithful to those we love even in difficult times.

Faithfulness like so many things has to be practiced on a selective basis. Let me use Daniel as an example of what I am trying to say. In Daniel chapter 6, Darius was about to put Daniel over all others in the kingdom except for himself. Darius had appointed 3 presidents over all of his kingdom and two of them began to conspire against Daniel. They did this to avoid subjugation to Daniel who Darius had found to have an *excellent spirit*. Verse 4 tells us they *sought to find occasion against Daniel as touching the kingdom*. They could not because he was found to be faithful to those things of the King. You may remember what happens next. Knowing that Daniel was faithful to his God above all else, they manipulated the King to establish a statue that forbade anyone to pray to any god or man other than the King for 30 days. As we read (Cont. on pg. 2)

**Faithfulness In All Things** (Cont. from pg. 1) further, we learn in verse 10 that Daniel prayed 3 times daily to God just as he had before the edict was issued. This, of course, resulted in Daniel being thrown into the den of lions. The lesson we learn is that faithfulness is given to God first and foremost and as best we can to all others who are appropriate recipients.

We learn this same lesson of priority concerning government. Rom.13:1 tells us to obey the higher powers since they are ordained of God. Peter says in Acts 5:29, when confronted by the authorities about teaching in the name of Christ, *We must obey God rather than men.* We thus conclude we should obey the civil authorities until they cause a conflict with our faithfulness to God.

As you can see, we have a very clear order of faithfulness set before us in scripture. There are times when we must deny faithfulness here on earth in order to be faithful to God. At the same time, however, we must acknowledge the faithfulness of first century Christians to all that they loved. Faithfulness to those other than God is a staple of our lives. We understand fidelity to our spouses. It is not something we take lightly. We do not allow for occasions when this faithfulness is put on hold so we can do something outside our marital bonds. I am sure we can all remember the days of our youth when we made poor or foolish decisions. In spite of that our parents were loyal and faithful to us. They did not disown us because we disappointed them. Sometimes

we know of people who suddenly become well off financially. In some cases they begin to move in higher social circles and neglect the friendships they had before their newfound wealth. When we observe this we feel they are disloyal or unfaithful to their old friends. In situations such as this we conclude they are lacking a certain loyalty that is expected of friends and loved ones.

Our relationship with our brethren is one of the first priorities we have after our faithfulness to God. Sometimes our brethren will disappoint us in their choices or decisions. They may even show weakness in their faithfulness to God. Even so, we do not turn our backs on them. We must practice loyalty and faithfulness if we expect to receive it. This is one of the main functions of the local congregation. We all serve in some capacity, *for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ.*

Let us therefore, demonstrate our love for the God who so loved us He gave His only begotten Son for us, by serving those He redeemed. Let us remain loyal and faithful to our brethren that we might all someday inherit eternal life. Let us set our sights on spending eternity in His presence and taking as many of our brethren with us as possible.

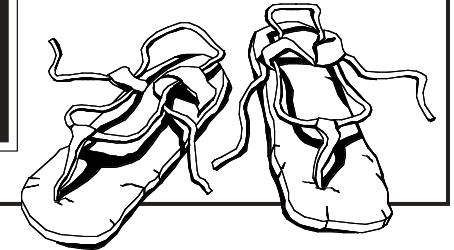


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**“...As He Walked”** — I John 2:6  
Studies In The Charcter of Christ

By Kyle Pope



## Obedience to His Father

**W**hen Jesus prepared Himself on the night before His crucifixion in the garden of Gethsemane, three times He prayed to God that the “cup” of His death on the cross might pass from Him (Matthew 26:38-44). In each case, although He asked that He might be spared such agony, He qualified His request with the words, **“not as I will, but as You [will]”** (26:39) or **“Your will be done”** (26:42). This was not unusual for Jesus. From childhood Jesus was taught, and had practiced obedience to his earthly parents (Luke 2:51). In maturity He demonstrated obedience to His heavenly Father.

This obedience is keenly seen in what took place in the garden. The Hebrew writer speaks of this time, referring to Jesus, **“in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death...”** (Hebrews 5:7, NKJV). Commenting further on this the writer says, **“though He was a Son, [yet] He learned obedience by the things which He**

**suffered”** (Hebrews 5:8). Here, the Son of God; God (the Son) in the flesh, was obedient to God (the Father) in heaven!

This is an important lesson to us in two respects. First, in an age when children are allowed (and even encouraged) to disobey their parents, the example of Jesus shows us that those who would be like Him can’t imagine that they are pleasing to God, if they choose to disobey their parents’ instructions. It is not “cool” or “mature.” It is defiance of the God-given authority that God has placed within our parents’ keeping. Paul includes the sin of being **“disobedient to parents”** twice in descriptions of the sinful behavior of the the world (Romans 1:30; II Timothy 3:2). The only exception to this would be if our parents commanded us to disobey God (Acts 5:29).

Second, as Christians we are **“children of God”** (I John 3:1)—God is **“our Father in heaven”** (Matthew 6:9). Like our earthly parents, Christians are to submit to and obey God as our heavenly Father. (Cont. on pg. 4).