

The Exchange - 8 November 2014



1. Is it possible to be completely obedient to God?
2. Are there dangers in setting complete obedience to God's commands as the ideal? Are there dangers in not?
3. Does obedience have to be all-or-nothing, all of the time? Is partial obedience to one of God's commands the same as disobedience to that command? Does it depend on the intent and/or extent?
4. Sometimes partial obedience exhibits a willful disobedience, while sometimes it does not. How do you view partial obedience to one of God's commands if the person honestly believes they are following God's command in full?
5. Is partial obedience better than no obedience at all? Do you answer differently depending on the level of knowledge that a person has of God's commands?
6. Does partial obedience ever come from a misunderstanding of God's commands? Can you think of any examples of this?
7. Does partial obedience ever come from an intentional reinterpretation of God's commands and can you think of examples of this, and the reasons for it?
8. In what situations is it harder to be completely obedient to a command and for what reasons? What could be used to change this?
9. Discuss some characters in the Bible who partially obeyed God's commands. What were their motivations in doing so and what impact did it have on their lives (e.g. Cain, Moses, Jonah, The Rich Young Ruler).
10. In each of the examples we heard in the sermon, Saul repeatedly adapted God's commands – partially obeying them, selectively choosing the parts that suited him and adapting or ignoring the aspects that troubled him. Is it understandable that someone would ever adapt God's commands? What are some common reasons and justifications for this partial obedience?
11. Blind faith is at times romanticised in Christianity. Is it necessary to follow God's commands even when you don't see the point or feel that a greater harm could come as a result?
12. People sometimes assess God's commands in the Bible as not binding on them today, being superseded by other commands/principles, or not applicable in a certain context. How do we know and interpret what God's commands are? Is it more than simply what is contained in the Bible?
13. Is there a connection between obedience and integrity? Are the terms interchangeable?
14. What are the benefits of total obedience to God?
15. What would you suggest to someone who is struggling with following God's commands?