

6 5-17-20 Obey!

OBEY Clothing was founded on the art, design and ideals of Shepard Fairey. Fairey has his own ideology and meaning for OBEY clothing. However, I find it interesting that OBEY clothing is so popular among the young people. Obedience, you see, is something human beings have balked at from the beginning of time. Obedience means compliance with an order, request, or law, or submission to another's authority. From the days of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, humans had hard time being obedient. That's why we are the mess we are in!

In the Gospel, Jesus commands us: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Maybe the Church should invest in OBEY clothing and head gear to distribute among parishioners to remind them to OBEY Jesus' command.

From the first book in the Bible (Genesis) to the last (Revelation) there is a lot said about obedience. In the story of the Ten Commandments, we see just how important the concept of obedience is to God. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 sums it up like this: "Obey and you will be blessed. Disobey and you will be cursed." In the New Testament, we learn through the example of Jesus that believers are called to a life of obedience.

Here are five reasons why Christian obedience is important:

1. Jesus Calls Us to Obey. In Jesus Christ, we find the perfect model of obedience. As his disciples, we follow Christ's example as well as his commands. Our motivation for obedience is love. Jesus tells us: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)

2. Obedience Is an Act of Worship. The Lord does not want us to be obedient to His commands for His sake, but for our sake. By obeying His commands our life will be better. And, by living according God's commands we acknowledge His greatness and wisdom, and therefore worship Him.

3. God Rewards Obedience Over and over again we read in the Bible that God blesses and rewards obedience. Jesus said: "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." (Luke 11:28)

4. Obedience to God Proves Our Love. The Bible tells us: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." (1 John 5:3) "Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another. (2 John 6)

5. Obedience to God Demonstrates Faith. When we obey God, we show our trust and faith in him. We are to obey the Lord, our God, because we believe and trust that He knows what is best for us.

God gave His people in the Old Testament the Ten Commandments (which are still *in vogue*, by the way). Jesus said not one letter of the Law will be done away with. But, Jesus trimmed the Commandments down to two: "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30-31 Then trimmed it down to one: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

Go ahead, get an OBEY hat or T-shirt. But let it remind you to OBEY your Lord and God.