

Serving God with Excellence Bible study Series

“Excellence in Obeying Christ”

Introduction: As you grow in Christ as a Christian, you will find that true contentment and fulfillment comes in surrendering complete control of your life to Jesus Christ. This means letting Him have the highest authority over your life as Lord, Chief, and Commander.

2. Being a Christian and Serving God with Excellence is not just worshipping God on Sunday. A devoted follower of Jesus Christ is committed to a life of obedience to Him, each day, for the rest of your life.

a. Dr. C.S. Lewis said, “Obedience is the key that opens every door.” **John 14:15** says (NCV) “*If you love me, you will obey my commands.*”

b. Just as Jesus love for the Father was expressed in his obedience, so our love for Jesus is expressed in our obedience. **John 14:31** (NCV) says “*but the world must know that I love the Father, so I do exactly what the Father told me to do...*”

Look at **John 15:9-10** (NIV) “*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.*”

c. Making Jesus Christ your Lord and living a lifestyle of obedience and dependence on Christ, brings about changes in the way you live.

I. Live Wholeheartedly

1. Living with Jesus Christ as your Lord is a wholehearted way of life. We are called to serve God with excellence with all our hearts. Wholehearted followers are what God is looking for. **II Chronicles 16:9** (NIV) says “*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*”

2. Surrender your heart each day to Him, ready and willing to be like Him and serve the Lord of your life. Look at **Ephesians 6:7** (NIV) “*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,*”

II. A Relationship of Love

1. Living with Jesus Christ as your Lord is a relationship of love. Your love for God is expressed through obedience. **Matthew 22:37-40** (NIV) “*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*”

2. Love is more than a feeling it's something we do. When you love the Lord, you Obey His commands. **John 14:21** (NIV) “*Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.*”

3. Obedience relates to every aspect of our lives:

a. Relationships with family and friends, our jobs, career plans and future ambitions, everything must be surrendered to God's plans.

b. We need to care more about what God thinks about us than what people think. Our bank accounts, possessions, time and everything we claim as ours, must be under God's control. Even our social life and leisure time should be yielded to Christ. Be willing to obey Christ even when there is personal cost involved. **Luke 14:33** (NIV) “*In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*”

Through obedience to Christ, we come to really know Him, and we become more like Him.

III. Run to Receive the Prize

1. Living with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Excelling means living a focused life aimed at glorifying God. God has a plan for each of our lives. Fulfilling these plans involves our active, disciplined effort. The Apostle Paul described the Christian life as an Olympic competition. In the same way that an Olympic athlete devotes themselves to rigorous training, so we are challenged to work at our relationship with Christ, growing in our understanding of God's Word, developing our character to be more like Christ, and living by Christ's example. **I Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)** *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”*

2. What we do with the 24 hours we are given each day determines the effectiveness of our Christian life and our service for Christ in excellence. God calls us to be productive believers, bearing “fruit” for God. Like a branch that draws life-giving sap from the vine, we draw our sustenance from union with Christ and recognize our dependence on Him. **John 15:5 (NIV)** *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

That's how we live our lives in a way that pleases God. **I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*

IV. Be Transformed

Finally, living with Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives is a life of transformation. We can't live perfect lives. When we fail, we can bring those failures to Jesus Christ. He promises to forgive and cleanse us.

I John 1:9 (NIV) “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”

1. Every day we need to let go of the old way of living and remember we are new creations. **Ephesians 4:24 (NIV) “*and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*”**

2. By turning away from our sins and receiving the new life Christ gave us, we steadily become more like Him. **Romans 12:2 (NIV) “*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*”**

3. The Christian life often runs against the current of the world around us. So, we need wholehearted commitment, true love for Jesus Christ, a disciplined lifestyle and readiness to admit our failures and leave behind our old ways of living in order to live victoriously in Christ. By surrendering to Jesus Christ in every area of our lives, we can live life to its fullest in excellence as He intended.