

Series: Without Question, # 4

Obedience

Read Exodus 20:18-21 (also Exodus 19:16-19). Do you consider fear to be an effective motivator?

We have the Bible and know the commandments. But we have not experienced thunder, lightning, fire, smoke, a mountain trembling as Israel did. Have you ever trembled or felt genuine fear about disobeying God's law?

Write your thoughts about the relationship between fear and obedience:

Does the Old Testament demonstrate that fear kept the people of Israel living in obedience to God?

Read Romans 3 and consider how it clarifies the purpose of the law:

Keeping the Law

What does the law of God require?

Obedience; we are commanded to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Matthew 22:37-40

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

No, but because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen. We are all born in sin, with a corrupted nature and unable to fully obey.

Romans 3:10-12, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12

If no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and see the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus see our need of a Savior.

Romans 3:19-20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Prayer: Merciful Lord, we are corrupt in our very nature, give us a new nature through new birth in Christ. Your law requires not only outward acts; it demands the full submission of our minds and hearts. Your law reveals to us what is just. Though it condemns us, through it we know how great is your holiness and how perfect is your Son. Though we fall short, may we always give you thanks and praise for your law and rejoice that we have a Savior. Amen.