**Obedience**

**Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth**

**so that you have genuine mutual love,**

**love one another deeply from the heart.**

***(1 Peter 1:22)***

**Overheard: "My neighbor's dog is taking the advanced course at obedience school. He knows how to fetch, heel and beg -- now he's learning to fax." *(Jay Trachman, in One to One)***

**Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed. *(Francis Bacon)***

**Only he who believes is obedient; only he who is obedient, believes. *(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)***

**Arguments worth having: Parents who browbeat their kids into being obedient and agreeable may not be giving them the best preparation for the real world. A new study shows that encouraging teens to argue calmly and effectively against parental orders makes them much more likely to resist peer pressure. University of Virginia researchers observed more than 150 13-year-olds as they disputed issues like grades, chores, and friends with their mothers. When researchers checked back in with the teens two and three years later, they found that those who had argued the longest and most convincingly – without yelling, whining, or throwing insults – were also 40 percent less likely to have accepted offers of drugs and alcohol than the teens who had caved quickly. “We found that what a teen learned in handling these kinds of disagreements with their parents was exactly what they took into their peer world,” study author Joseph P. Tells NPR.org. The key to having a constructive debate with your kids, experts say, is listening to them attentively and rewarding them when they make a good point – even if you don’t end up reaching a mutual agreement. “Think of those arguments not as a nuisance,” Allen says, “but as a critical training ground” for wise, independent decision-making. *(The Week magazine, January 20, 2012)***

**"If you do what people tell you to do," say the Bulgarians, "you'll fish for rabbits in the sea and hunt fish in the forest." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**My wife and I enrolled Molly, our lovable but dumb cockerspaniel, in a ten-week obedience class. At the end of the term Molly had made little progress. We re-enrolled her, but at the end of the second course Molly was still noticeably behind her canine classmates. The instructor, perhaps determined to succeed with our dog, offered to let her repeat the course for the third time at no charge. That evening I heard my wife on the phone with her mother. “Guess what?” Marcie said. “Molly was the only dog in her class to get a scholarship!” *(Al Lucci, in Reader's Digest)***

**FIRST AMONG HIS PEERS: Discipline in the large family was becoming progressively worse, so the harried mother gathered her brood together and presented a plan. "I'm going to keep a record of the behavior of each of you," she announced. "On Saturday, the member of the family who has been most obedient will get a reward." "That's not fair!" exclaimed one of the youngsters. "Daddy will win it every time!" (*F. G. Kernan, in Catholic Digest)***

**When someone demands blind obedience, you'd be a fool not to peek. *(Jim Fiebig, NANA)***

**DOCTOR’S ORDERS: A nervous man went in to see his doctor one day. His doctor, somewhat perturbed, exclaimed, “I see you’re over a month late for your appointment. Don’t you know that nervous disorders require prompt and regular attention? What’s your excuse?” The man replied, “I was just following your orders, Doc.” The doctor, now nearly shouting, said, “Following my orders? What are you talking about? I gave you no such order.” “Yes, you did!” the man replied, “You told me to avoid people that yell and situations that make me nervous.” *(The PassTime Paper)***

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**Every dog can be trained, or so we've heard. My wife and I tested that theory by enrolling our seemingly untrainable Australian shepherd, Austin, in obedience school alongside six other dogs. The final session ended with four skill contests with prizes awarded. Austin struggled in "school," so we didn't expect him to win anything. Surprise! My wife returned home proudly showing off the four second-place ribbons Austin had won. "What? How? But . . ." I sputtered. She cut me off: "Only two dogs showed up." (Roger Andersen, in Reader's Digest)**

**Could we reschedule our tennis match?" my friend asked. "I have to take my dogs to obedience school in the morning." "Obedience school?" I answered. "What if they don't want to go?" *(Raul Jose, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Bad week for: Just following orders, after a Washington state woman drove her SUV down a boat ramp and into a lake because her GPS told her to. The woman and two passengers were able to swim to shore. *(The Week magazine, July 1-8, 2011)***

**A Maine woman drove her SUV down a flight of stairs outside a police station – and blamed her GPS, police said. The 26-year-old drove across a pedestrian plaza at the Portland Police Department, then got stuck on the stairs while trying to get down to the street, police said. She claimed to be following GPS instructions, police said, “but responding officers felt it was her excessive blood alcohol level.” *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

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**He that cannot obey, cannot command. *(Ben Franklin)***

**Every great person has first learned how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun*. (Katharine Hepburn)***

**Jesus taught that we can incorporate life-giving rays into our mind, body, and affairs through faith. Where physicists merely describe the mechanical presence of life as energy, Jesus taught man how by the exercise of his mind he can make that life obey him. Instead of a universe of blind mechanical forces Jesus showed the universe to be persuaded and directed by intelligence. *(Charles Fillmore, in Prosperity, introduction)***

**A highly publicized murder trial was about to begin. During the jury selection, each side hotly contested and dismissed potential jurors. One prospective juror, Dan, was called into a room for questioning. “Property holder?” he was asked. Dan replied, “Yes, I am, Your Honor.” “Married or single?” “Married for 20 years, Your Honor.” “Formed or expressed an opinion?” “Not in 20 years, Your Honor.” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**People obey the law for one of two reasons: they either love God or fear punishment. When both of these break down, the result is an environment that breeds violence, poverty and anarchy. *(Jack Kemp)***

**Good week for: Knowing your place, after Roy and Dorothy Fleming of Brookfield, Wisconsin, celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary. “He knows who’s boss. That’s how we got along,” said Dorothy, 95. “Whatever she says is right,” agreed Roy, 100. *(The Week magazine, February 17, 2012)***

**Iraq. This pleased Dad immensely. “A Marine? Good!” he said. “That means he can take orders.” *(Melissa Esmilla, in Reader’s Digest)***

**I asked my son if he understood the meaning of the word obey. He said, “Yeah, it’s a place to go shopping on the Internet.” *(Jay Trachman, in One to One)***

**For an insurance application, a chap giving information on his military background came to the question: "What did you do while in service?" "AS TOLD!" he wrote in large letters. *(Lorene Workman, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**A father of five came home with a toy, summoned his children and asked which one of them should be given the present. “Who is the most obedient, never talks back to Mother and does everything he or she is told?” he inquired. There was silence, and then a chorus of voices: “You play with it, Daddy!” *(Helen Daley, in Globe)***

**I’d been secretly dating for several months, and it was time to break the news to my very protective father. My mother thought he’d take it better if she explained to him that my boyfriend was a Marine who had just returned from Under Muslim law, a man cannot take orders from a woman. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 185)***

**Bad week for: Just following orders, after an 80-year-old German motorist drove through a motorway barrier, a construction site, and into a pile of sand because his Mercedes’ onboard navigation system told him to*. (The Week magazine, October 20, 2006)***

**Too bad some marriage ceremonies now omit the word “obey.” It was the only thing that lent a little humor to the occasion. *(Quoted by Earl Wilson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**General Nicolas Bravo (1784-1854) while fighting for Mexico's independence in 1813, captured 300 Spanish soldiers who had just executed his father, but instead of executing them he set all 300 free -- pointing out that they had only been obeying orders from their military commanders. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!)***

**Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it. *(William Penn)***

**It ain’t what people call you. It’s what you answer to. *(Quoted by Tyler Perry, in Madea’s Family Reunion)***

**Franklin Roosevelt wondered frequently during the 1932 electoral campaign at what he saw as the surprising docility of the American people in the face of the Depression. “Repeatedly he spoke of this,” his aide Rexford Tugwell recalled, “saying that it was enormously puzzling to him that the ordeal of the past three years had been endured so peaceably.” That old passivity has intrigued historians, who have noted that it forced Roosevelt to simultaneously invent the tools to combat the Depression and establish their very legitimacy in the eyes of the people. *(David M. Kennedy, in Time magazine)***

**Wife: “I’m going to try something new with the dog and kids this summer.” Husband: “What’s that?” Wife: “I’m sending the dog to camp and the kids to obedience school.” *(Nancy Taylor, in Reminisce magazine)***

**The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum. *(Noam Chomsky)***

**Our three-year-old daughter, Bethany, was with my mother in her garden one summer day. After Bethany picked several unripened strawberries, Mom told her not to pick any more. Confident that Bethany understood and would obey, Mom went back to gardening. Later she checked her strawberry plants and noticed that all the remaining pink berries on the plants had been bitten nearly in half. *(Joanie Whetstone)***

**A teenager ordered to tidy his room by his long-suffering mother really cleaned up when he discovered a winning lottery ticket in the mess. Ryan Kitching, 19, of Penicuik, Scotland, won over $83,000 after finding a pile of discarded lottery tickets buried in a drawer. Kitching's mother said she had been nagging her son to clean his room for several weeks. The teenager said he'd treat her to a holiday with his winnings -- and keep his room tidier in the future. "I won't need telling twice," he said. *(The Week magazine, March 16, 2012)***

**My children often disagreed with me, thank God! I’d no objection at all to their being disobedient. Parents should remember that besides being parents, they are also the bone on which the puppy can shape its teeth. *(Peter Ustinov)***

**A waist is a terrible thing to mind. *(Jane Caminos, cartoonist)***

**A young man just out of the army was interviewed for a job. “What did you do in the service?” the interviewer asked him. The young man replied, “As told.” *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 122)***

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