

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

God Delights In Obedience

1 Samuel 15

Main Thought: In 1 Samuel 15, we discover that obedience to the Lord is better than sacrifice.

1. THE _____
 - 1) The defeat and sentence against _____ (Exodus 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19)
 - 2) Saul's role in the _____
 - 3) Saul's _____ disobedience
 - 4) A brief word about divine "_____."
 - 5) Samuel's _____ with Saul
 - 6) Samuel finishes the _____.

2. WHY DOES GOD HATE _____?
 - 1) Disobedience shows misplaced _____. (v 24)
 - 2) Disobedience shows misplaced _____. (vv 19, 21)
 - 3) Disobedience shows misplaced _____. (vv 12, 17-18)
 - 4) Disobedience is as the _____ of divination. (v 23; Deut. 18:10)
 - 5) Disobedience is _____. (v 23)

3. WHY IS _____ BETTER THAN SACRIFICE?
 - 1) _____ comes from obligation, but the root of obedience is love. (1 Jn 5:2-3)
 - 2) We make sacrifice about ourselves, but obedience is about _____. (1 Peter 2:12)
 - 3) Obedience demonstrates our _____ to God. (1 Jn 2:3-6)
 - 4) Obedience opens avenues of _____ for us. (Jn 13:17)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Samuel 15 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. In verse 3, what exactly does the Lord command Saul to do?

8. What have the Amalekites done to deserve such punishment? (v 2, Duet. 25:17-19)

9. Why do you think God even commanded children and animals to be killed?

10. Why are the Kenites spared? (v 6)

11. What distinguishes the things Israel kept from the things they destroyed? (v 9)

12. Compare the progression in Saul's responses to Samuel's indictment: How does Saul respond to Samuel's arrival (v 13)? Samuel's first rebuke (vv 14-15)? To the second rebuke (vv 17-21)? To the third rebuke (vv 22-25)?

13. What do you think prompted Saul to disobey God in the first place?

14. What are we to make of verses 11, 29, & 35 when they speak of God's regret or repentance?

15. Why is obedience better than sacrifice? (vv 22-23)