

Message Summary

Selective obedience is the dangerous illusion that doing some of what God commands is enough, when it's really disobedience in disguise. When we choose partial obedience, we slowly build a wall between us and God. Instead, we can choose full surrender as a demonstration of our love for God, who loved us first.

Key Scripture

"But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice ..."

1 Samuel 15:20-22 NIV

... this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. ... 1 John 5:3-4 NIV

Additional Scriptures

- Deuteronomy 5:33 NIV
- Exodus 19:5 NIV
- Job 36:11 NLT
- 1 Samuel 15:7-9 NIV

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share one thing you did this past week that required faith.

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What are some areas of your life where it's easy to be obedient to God's will?
- Read **1 Samuel 15:20-22**. What stands out to you in these verses? How do they influence your view or understanding of sin?

Start Sharing

Choose a question to create openness.

- Read **1 John 5:3-4**. Talk about a time when you chose obedience when it was difficult. How did that choice build your relationship with God?
- Where are you letting sin whisper its way into your life? Discuss ways you can turn toward God the next time you're tempted to justify sin.

Start Praying

Father, thank You for being patient and kind with us. We want to live in full obedience and surrender to You, even when it's hard. Please show us areas of our lives where we're not fully following You so we can know You more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Spend time writing a list of practical ways you can turn toward God. Use this list the next time you're tempted to have selective obedience.
- Start the Bible Plan *What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/jesus
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.