

Preach the Word: A Biblical Perspective of a Believer's Responsibility to What Is Taught

Who Is Responsible For What?

Responsibility of the leadership

- To proclaim the Word (2 Tim 4:1-4)
- To rightly divide the Word (2 Tim 2:15)
- To gently persuade with the Word (2 Tim 2:24-26)
- To grow and change by the Word (1 Tim 4:15-16)
- To live the Word by example (1 Tim 4:12; Heb 13:7)
- To protect the flock from false teachers (Acts 20)

Responsibility of each individual believer

- To faithfully gather together (Heb 10:25)
- To actively stir up and exhort one another (Heb 10:24-25)
- To believe and obey the truth (Heb 5:12-14 - exercised)
- To avoid false influences and false teaching (Psalm 1:1-3; Col 2:6-8)
- To desire the pure milk of the Word (1 Pet 2:1-3)
- To endure sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3)
- To let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col 3:16)
- To be controlled by the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
- To abide in the Word (John 8:31)
- To put off and put on (Eph 4:22-24)

Can a Believer Really Obey the Truth?

The overwhelming emphasis in the Word is not on the inability of believers to obey, but rather, that a believer, through the many resources of God, can obey! We have all the resources necessary to live as God commands!

Enablement – assumes that we can, because of God's resources (not overly emphasized)

- Died and risen with Christ (Rom 6)
- Mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)
- Stand in liberty (Gal 5:1)
- Live by faith in the Son of God (Gal 2:20)
- Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16)
- Through love serve one another (Gal 5:18)
- Walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:25)
- Walk as children of light (Eph 5:8)
- Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
- Whole armor of God (Eph 6:13-18)
- Walk by faith (Col 2:6-8)
- Grace of God (which teaches us) (Titus 2:11-14)
- Through the exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Pet 1:4)

Expectation (Commands) – Belief is to be followed by behavior. It is a walk of faith, not feelings.

- Rom 6:11-13
- Eph 5:3
- Eph 6:13-14
- Heb 5:12-14
- Col 3:5
- 1 Thes 4:1-8 (-12)
- Titus 2:11-14
- James 1:2-4
- Failure = giving up, giving in – Rom 6; James 1:12-15
- Warnings – e.g. Heb 13:4

The Content and Form of Biblical Preaching

- To Teach (Matt 28:20)
- To Teach the Word (2 Tim 3:16-17; John 8:32; Heb 4:12)
- To Teach the Word Accurately (2 Tim 2:15) – including **contextually** (not creatively, but as intended)
- To Teach the Word Boldly (2 Tim 4:2)
- To Teach the Word Entirely (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- To Teach the Word Purposefully (to be observed; James 1:21-27)

Psalm 1:1-3 – 1 Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Gal 5:13-25 – 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not [use] liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

2 Tim 4:1-4 – 1 I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Titus 2:11-15 – 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works. 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

1 Peter 2:1-3 – 1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious.

2 Pet 1:1-11 – 1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption [that is] in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, [you will be] neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.