

NOW WHAT*Questions for reflection and conversation***The Redeemed Man Podcast Featuring Paul and Nate**

The Freedom That Comes with Obeying God

THINK ABOUT IT

Sit with these before you say anything out loud.

A choice to obey—or to go rogue.

(11:15) Think back to a time when a parent, supervisor, or authority figure gave you specific instructions, but you were convinced you had a better way to complete the task at hand. Did you follow the instructions, and did that build any resentment in you? Or did you do things your way, and if so, what was the result? How did the authority figure react to your non-conformity?

● *A time I thought I had a better way:*

● *What happened when I strayed from the instructions:*

Honesty is the best policy—and best path to community.

(28:08) When you own up to a failing or a misstep on your spiritual journey, who is the person who generally offers you the most grace and encouragement? How did you build a relationship with that person, and how did you build up the trust—and the courage—to be vulnerable in front of them?

● *The person who picks me up when I've stumbled:*

● *How I came to trust them with the real me:*

TALK IT OUT

These are worth saying out loud, in a group, with a brother, or with God himself.

Examining our motivations.

(6:31) When you were growing up, did you generally do “the right thing” because you had a desire in your heart to do so, or did you do so out of a sense of obligation? Did you ever run into trouble despite your obedience because people could tell “your heart wasn’t in it”?

What obedience means to me personally.

(8:10) What comes to your mind when you hear the word “obedience”? Does it have any negative connotations for you? Has it ever made you feel stifled or held back from your greatest potential? Did you enter adulthood with the expectation that, as someone now making his own decisions, obedience would no longer be your concern?

Understanding the nature of salvation.

(17:24) Have you struggled to reconcile God’s call to obey with the Christian conviction that salvation is already granted to us, that it doesn’t have to be “earned”? When you’ve done things out of obligation to God rather than a true desire in your heart, how do you feel afterward?

Where I’m still struggling to accept God’s instructions.

(34:08) In what areas of your life do you think you’ve been most resistant to obeying God’s word? Where do you think that reluctance comes from? How did you begin to have your eyes opened to the rewards that came with conforming to God’s plan?

TAKE ACTION

Don't let this stay in your head. Do something with it.

Obeying the call to love thy neighbor.

(24:18) Have you, like Paul, gone through a period in your life where you “didn’t really see people” or viewed them merely as “pieces on a chessboard”? When people were turned off by that attitude, did you tell yourself, “So what, I don’t need them”? What factors in your life have caused that attitude to change?

- *When I saw people as a means to an end:*
- *How that made other people feel:*
- *What I’m doing—and can still do—differently:*

The people who make obedience feel like a privilege.

(30:26) Who are the leaders in your life whom you have been most eager to follow or obey? What about them inspired you to have so much confidence in them and their directions?

- *The people I’d follow anywhere:*
- *Why I want to do right by them:*

We can try to keep the anger inside—but it won’t stay there.

(42:05) When you’ve withheld forgiveness from someone and held on to that anger, where is that anger most likely to be “transferred”? Does it end up being aimed at someone else? Does it get channeled into an unhealthy habit?

- *Where that anger ended up:*
- *What I could’ve done differently:*

CLOSING

To some extent, it's human nature to push back against rules or restrictions imposed by others. But God's rules obviously aren't just any rules. And the nature of those rules isn't always simple. *You mean I can't just obey God, I have to want to obey God? I thought he'd already granted me salvation anyway!*

These thoughts often result from getting bogged down in the hard work of following God's plan without appreciating the rewards—freedom from sin; a greater sense of community with others; a more meaningful life path; and a closer relationship with God himself. In the coming days and weeks, reflect on the good that has come from obeying God's word and living the life he desires you to live. Give thanks for those blessings, and ask yourself where else in your life you could be more receptive to God's instructions. As you do, you'll understand more fully what a privilege it is to serve a God who wants the best for us and is always there to help us achieve it.

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