

Trust And Obey

Promise: the gift of faith will help us to obey and abide in Christ

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; [John 15:9-17](#)

(Sixth Sunday of Easter, 5/9/21)

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. — v. 10

Lead In – This Sunday's Gospel Reading is a continuation of last Sunday's. You will recall that Jesus said that he was the true vine and that his Father was the vinedresser. And again he said, "I am the vine," and then to his disciples, "you are the branches." The main emphasis was that it is only by abiding in Jesus that we have life, indeed fruitful life. And I emphasized that we are grafted into the vine by the Lord's gracious work in baptism, and we remain in the vine and draw life from the vine by exercising the faith given us in baptism...

I. Faith Vs. Works, Helpful But Not Only Understanding

- Paul, Augustine, and Luther speak in a certain way
- Bible often speaks as if they were two side of coin...
- Good trees bear good fruit, it happens naturally...

II. Natural, Automatic, Easy Peasy, Right?

- Imagine what fruit bearing branch goes through...
- We don't have to imagine life of discipleship...

III. There Are Two Sides of a Horse to Fall Off Of

- Lutherans and Protestants need to beware!
- Legalism is one side, Antinomianism is the other!
- Blood, sweat, and tears is not a bad sign, pride is!

Parting Shot – I learned a little song in Sunday School entitled "Trust And Obey". The words to the refrain went like this: Trust and obey, for there's no other way // To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. As Lutheran we might squirm a little at these words, but we need not; especially if we realize that trust comes first! We will realize that when we really trust obedience will come naturally, even if we must struggle. Obedience is the way we exercise the gift of faith. It is the way we fruitfully abide and live in Jesus...

Ep 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ga 2:16 We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Ja 2:17 Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

1Jn 5:3-4 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

John 15:9-17 ESV

Obedience to Abide In Christ's Love

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Lk 6:43 For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

Imagine: Growth spurts, stretching, twisting, breaking out, pruning (ouch), enduring all the elements, and then weighed down with developing fruit being brought low to the ground...

Ac 14:22 [After having been stoned at Lystra speaks to fellow disciples] strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Ja 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Ph 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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The Ten Commandments

Preach Repentance

The Ten Commandments show us our sin and how much we need a Savior

Confess Together...

I am the Lord your God.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

The Second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or his manservant, or his maidservant,
or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

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