

First Wednesday graphic
Crown series graphic

Would you rather graphic ...

<https://buzznigeria.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Funny-Would-You-Rather-Question-1-e1429098668677.jpg>

Pic of Yoda and Darth Vader ☒ *same slide*

{come up one at time ... same slide}

A/C & Heat or Internet?

Empty: phone battery or gas tank?

Halloween Candy or Christmas Cookies?

No football season or ...?

I Samuel 15:1

Samuel told Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people Israel. Now, **listen** to the words of the Lord.

The great choice of whether or not to **obey the Lord.**

I Samuel 15:2-3

This is what the Lord of Armies says: ‘I witnessed what the **Amalekites** did to the Israelites when they opposed them along the way as they were coming out of Egypt. Now go and attack the Amalekites and **completely destroy everything** they have. Do not spare them. Kill men and women, infants and nursing babies, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”

Revelation 6:9-10

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. They cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?”

J.I. Packer’s Definition of Obedience:

OBEDIENCE is the conscientious endeavor to live by God’s revealed will for us, without making exceptions in our own favor.

I Samuel 15:7-9

Then Saul struck down the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is next to Egypt. He captured King Agag of Amalek alive, but he completely destroyed all the rest of the people with the sword. Saul and the troops **spared** Agag, **and the best of the sheep, goats,**

cattle, and choice animals, as well as the young rams and the best of everything else. They were **not willing** to destroy them, but they did destroy all the worthless and unwanted things.

Saul has obeyed some but not all ☞ Partial obedience

I Samuel 15:10-11

Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, “I **regret** that I made Saul king, for he has **turned away** from following Me and has **not** carried out my instructions.” So Samuel became angry and cried out to the Lord all night.

Partial obedience is still disobedience.

{Same slide; come up one at a time}

Complete obedience is God's **priority for us.**

The question for us: why?

1) Obedience is **pleasing to God.**

I Samuel 15:12-13

Early in the morning Samuel got up to confront Saul, but it was reported to Samuel, “Saul went to Carmel where he set up **a monument for himself**. Then he turned around and went down to Gilgal.” When Samuel came to him, Saul said, “May the Lord bless you. I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”

We tend to inflate our obedience or be blind to disobedience.

We may not always see the sinfulness of our sin.

I Samuel 15:14-21

Samuel replied, “Then what is this sound of sheep, goats, and cattle I hear?” Saul answered, “The troops brought them from the Amalekites and spared the best sheep, goats, and cattle in order **to offer a sacrifice to the Lord your God**, but the rest we destroyed.” “Stop!” exclaimed Samuel. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” “Tell me,” he replied.

Samuel continued, “Although you once considered yourself **unimportant**, haven’t you become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord **anointed** you king over Israel and then sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go and completely destroy the sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have annihilated them.’ **So why didn’t you obey the Lord?** Why did you **rush on** the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord’s sight?”

“**But** I did obey the Lord!” Saul answered. “I went on the mission the Lord gave me: I brought back King Agag of Amalek, and I **completely destroyed** the Amalekites. The troops took sheep, goats, and cattle from the plunder—the best of what was set apart for destruction—**to sacrifice** to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

Blinding Factors:

- 1) Religion**
- 2) Self:** sufficiency, reliance, & absorption
- 3) Misunderstanding (or missing) God's grace**

2) Obedience shows God's grace to be a transforming power ... instead of a flimsy tolerance of sin.

Saul: imperfect but chosen & anointed to be ruler under God

Us: imperfect but chosen & adopted by faith to be children of God

God covers & cancels sin in Christ to eventually & victoriously eradicate sin in us.

I Samuel 15:22a

Then Samuel said: "Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

3) Obedience demonstrates our delight is in the Lord.

Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires.

John 14:21

Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me.

I Sameul 15:23

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.

4) Obedience shows the place of our trust.

Sin is wicked and evil ultimately because of Whose authority and will we reject.

I Sameul 15:24-29

Saul answered Samuel, "I have sinned. I have transgressed the Lord's command and your words. Because I was afraid of the people, I obeyed them. Now therefore, please forgive my sin and return with me so I can worship the Lord." Samuel replied to Saul, "I will not return with you. Because you rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." When Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the corner of his robe, and it tore.²⁸ Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingship of Israel away from you today and has given it to

your neighbor who is better than you. Furthermore, the **Eternal One of Israel** does not lie or change his mind, for he is not man who changes his mind.”

5) Obedience today holds onto the **hope of a new Kingdom under the perfect, true **King**.**

I Samuel 15:30-31, 34-35

Saul said, “I have sinned. Please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel. Come back with me so I can bow in worship to the Lord your God.” Then Samuel went back, following Saul, and Saul bowed down to the Lord ... Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. Even to the day of his death, Samuel never saw Saul again. Samuel mourned for Saul, and the Lord regretted he had made Saul king over Israel.

It is not enough to say we have sinned ... have we repented and committed ourselves to complete obedience?

Hebrews 10:4-10

For it is **not possible** for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about Me in the Scriptures.’” ... For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.