



Skit Guys: "Grace" John 21

RESPONDING TO EASTER "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15) "He who has My commandments and keeps them he it is who loves Me." (14:21) "If anyone loves Me he will keep My word." (14:23) "He who does not love Me does not keep My words." (14:24) "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love." (15:10)

LOVE MOTIVATED OBEDIENCE Genesis 22:1-19

God tested a businessman called Abraham on the very spot (Mt. Moriah) where Jesus was to be crucified and resurrected 2100 years later to see if his love was merely an outward religious show or a growing inward reality. It is important to note that God is not asking Abraham to obey in order to earn His love. He is asking Abraham to obey in response to His love! God never asks us to obey in order to earn more of His love as He already loves us unconditionally. He asks us to obey Him in response to His lavish grace and relentless mercy.

LIST, LAW OR LOVE Suppose a close friend gave you a list of 50 things to do for him like clean his house, wash his car and mow his lawn in order to help him out. Because your friend is a decent guy you will perhaps do a few token tasks from his list, but it is doubtful that you would do all 50 items! Now suppose, while you were driving with your family, a large truck smashed into your car turning it over and causing it to burst into flames. And suppose that, because this friend just happened to see the whole incident, he risked his life to save you and your family from certain death by pulling you from the flaming inferno. And suppose that in the process of saving you he was permanently injured losing his sight, incinerating his hands, crippling

his back, burning his face beyond recognition and destroying his voice by the toxic fumes as he cut your family from seatbelts while unconscious. Now, what is your response to his request? Would you now be motivated by love, a list or the law!

5 TESTS OF OBEDIENCE Genesis 22:1-19

IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE [2-3]

"Take now your son..."

DETERMINED OBEDIENCE [2+4]

"Sacrifice him...on the third day."

CONFIDENT OBEDIENCE [5]

"We will worship and return!"

PEACEFUL OBEDIENCE [8]

"God will provide!"

SACRIFICIAL OBEDIENCE [10-12]

"You have not withheld."



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION

1. Has your love for Christ been LIST-motivated or LOVE-motivated? Why? How can you develop a love-motivated obedience for God?
2. Which of Abe's 5 tests most grabbed your heart? Why?
3. Do you love Jesus now more than you did 3 months ago? Explain