

Week 8 | How to Follow Jesus: Love and Obey

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:21

BIG IDEA:	Christlike women follow Jesus and obey him because they ARE loved, not in order TO BE loved.

How do I follow Jesus? I LOVE Him, and I OBEY Him.

Love is the **root**. Obedience is the **fruit**. Underneath both: **surrender**.

1. Love Comes First

Obedience flows out of **relationship**. 1 John 4:19; Romans 5:8

2. Love Shown: Obedience Is Love Made Visible

The Two Sons Parable (Matthew 21:28–31)

a. Counterfeit obedience looks like: **Grasping** and **Hiding**

b. True obedience looks like:

(1) **Pray** first.

(2) Let go of the **outcome**.

(3) Take the next **faithful** step.

3. Love Deepened: Obedience Leads to Intimacy

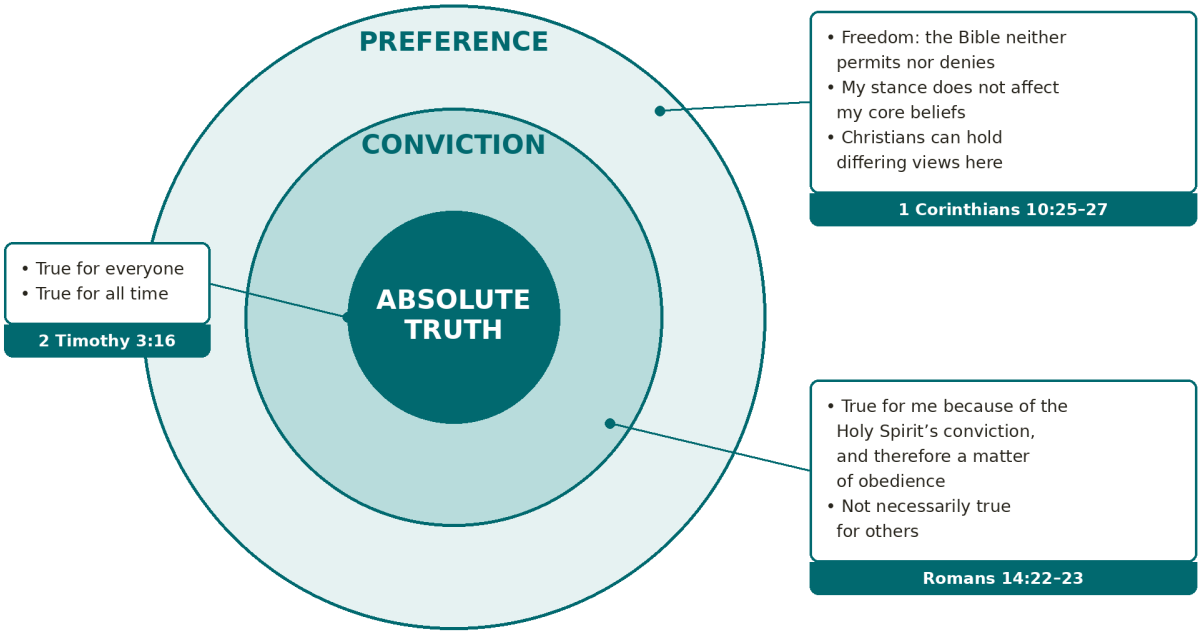
a. We are not leaping into the dark. We are leaping into the **arms** of Jesus.

b. The Helper is promised for **presence**, not outcomes.

Breath prayer: Breathe in: "Let not my heart be **troubled**." Breathe out: "I **believe** in you."

transformed

Becoming Christlike Women



The slippery slope into legalism: preference → conviction → "absolute." Love keeps obedience from turning into legalism.

Small Group Questions

1. Growing up, was obedience in your home tied to love or to consequences? How does that shape the way you hear the word "obey" from God today?
2. Look at the circles of truth diagram above. Where have you seen preference, conviction, and absolute truth get confused in your own walk with Jesus?
3. What do you dream about? What are your nightmares? What do you fear most? Where do your time and money flow effortlessly? What might your answers reveal about a love that has slipped out of order?
4. For many of us, disobedience sounds like "I'll handle it," "I'll pray about it after I fix it," or "I'll trust him once I understand." Which sounds most like you? Where is fear wearing the clothes of love right now? Or is God asking you for a harder yes?
5. Pray first. Let go of the outcome. Take the next faithful step. Where will you practice this this week? What is your "close the app" moment?

Homework

Read through the book of Esther and notice how she demonstrated obedience and love for God.

Memorize

Take time this week to memorize John 14:21.