

- Q39. What is the duty which God requires of man?
A39. **The duty which God requires of man, is obedience to his revealed will.**

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 29:29; Micah 6:8; 1 Samuel 15:22; Luke 10:28

DQ1: Is there something that God requires of man? Explain.

DQ2: Has God revealed what He requires of man? If so, how?

DQ3: Does man owe a duty to God? Explain.

DQ4: What is the duty of man toward God?

DQ5: What is necessary for man to obey God?

DQ6: Why must man obey God?

Notes:

God redeemed us through Jesus Christ. God's redemption can be described as "restoration" of relationship with God or "recreation" by God. The redemptive work of God in restoring us unto Himself is, as we have already studied, a unilateral ministry of God to which man could contribute nothing whatsoever. Therefore, God does not demand anything of man. Once redeemed, however, the situation changes entirely. God makes many demands of the redeemed, those whose relationship with God has been restored. The deeds of the redeemed show forth his faith. Before redemption, we were dead in sin and knew nothing of spiritual matters and the will of God. Through redemption, those who were once dead are given a new life and awakened to the demands of God. Interestingly, such demands of God prove that there is a relationship between God and man for no relationship is devoid of demands upon each other. The way in which man proves this new relationship with God is by obedient to the will of God.

God has always revealed His demands of man. God revealed them through His creation. God sometimes expressed His will in an audible voices to man. Sometimes, God revealed His will through prophets, kings and priests. He even revealed His will by His own writing on the stone tablets. He indeed spoke through Jesus Christ and the Bible. It is important to realize that man could not know the will of God unless God reveals His will. Therefore, man depends totally on the work of God to know Him.

God is sovereign and is the Creator. Man is mere creature before God and is in no position to question God. Therefore, it is only right that man should obey God. Yet, man does not obey God. Those who are not redeemed are expected to be disobedient since they do not know God or His will. What about the redeemed? The reality is that even the redeemed have a tendency to become disobedient as they struggle with the weakness and sinfulness of their own flesh. Man is very much used to being disobedient. Obedience is a real challenge for man today. The world openly ridicules the obedient and they are treated like fools. In light such harsh realities of life, who would desire to be obedient to God? Nonetheless, no matter what our estate, the Creator as the only Sovereign demands our obedience whether we like it or not. Who could resist God!

There is one thing that God desires of us. That is obedience. Obedience is the best sacrifice that we can offer to God. God is not interested in superficial sacrifices or worship. God always prefers obedience over sacrifice because obedience is more difficult than sacrifice. Our worship of God must be centered on our obedience.

In order for us to be obedience to God, we must know correctly the will of God. Obedience requires correctness. There is no such thing as mistaken obedience. Further, obedience must occur within context of the relationship between God and man. Interestingly, love and obedience go hand in hand. Obedience must accompany a cost. A costless obedience is hollow and is not obedience at all. Therefore, true obedience can only occur in the face hardship, trials and tribulations. Such obedience will be considered a living sacrifice and true worship onto God.

Why should we obey God? First, it is God's command. Second, obedience leads to life. Third, obedience expresses our love for God. Fourth, obedience brings blessings and rewards. Fifth, obedience produces spiritual power and authority. Sixth, obedience breeds more obedience. Seventh, obedience produces margin of life, i.e., abundance in God for it signifies trusting God for all provisions. Eighth, obedience is a thing of beauty in the eyes of all who view it. Ninth, obedience pleases God.