

e-devotional

A monthly devotional on the spiritual formation of Christian workers of the Central Pacific District C&MA
March 04

Mandatory Disciplines: Obedience—Brotherly Love and the Unity of Believers

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:22-23 [does God still reject pastors/churches who persist in disobedience, or was that an aberration applying only to Saul?]

Main idea: Most church health issues can be directly traced to disobedience

Task: Memorize the above verses

Command	Level of Church Obedience	How My Church Can Improve
<p>John 13:34-35 (Msg) "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 How this is seen in my church</p>	
<p>Romans 15:1-7 (Msg) [note chapter 14 context] Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"</p> <p>That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!</p> <p>So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 How this is seen in my church</p>	

<p>Galatians 6:1-5 (Msg) Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.</p> <p>Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>
<p>Ephesians 4:1-3 (Msg) In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>
<p>Ephesians 4:31-32 (Msg) Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>

<p>Colossians 3:12-13 (Msg) So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>
<p>Philippians 4:1-2 (Msg) If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>
<p>1 Thessalonians 5:11-15 (Msg) So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it. And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love! Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>

<p>Careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.</p>		
<p>Hebrews 13:17 (Msg) Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>
<p>1 Peter 1:22 (Msg) Now that you've cleaned up your lives by following the truth, love one another as if your lives depended on it.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>How this is seen in my church</p>	<p>How My Church Can Improve</p>