

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

May 17, 2015 ~ *The Obedience Factor*

Many people don't want to go to church because they expect to have to follow some rules or have people tell them things they need to quit doing.

As an example, take a one year old stud colt. This fellow's natural tendency is to bite, turn his rear to things he doesn't like or is afraid of, run from things, and be in charge...he has to learn to respect people, stand tied, allow us to pick up his feet, put wormer in his mouth, vet check his teeth and to stay in his stall. ALL of this is for his benefit, not just ours.

1 Peter 5:6-7 *6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Humble yourselves (aka. obey Him there is a close relationship between humility and obedience. We shift our focus from the things I want to be or want to do, to God, saying I trust you God.

Example of Jesus...***Phil 2:8 "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself, by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross."***

Example of disobedience causing stress...If we live our lives completely inside God's boundaries for life we would cut out more than half of our stress or said the other way, to live outside the boundaries of God adds unnecessary stress.

If a man refuses to love his wife the way God tells us to, there will be stress in the marriage. If a woman refuses to show her husband the respect God calls her to, there will be stress in the marriage. If children don't obey their parents, there will be stress in the family.

If we don't follow God's rules for finances (give, save, live) we will have stress financially.

What about the stress of being found out! You've been having an affair and you have added tremendous stress to your life hoping nobody finds out.

Or, you've not been paying your taxes and it's stressful wondering if you're going to get caught.

You're not getting where you want to go in business so you start cutting corners and taking shortcuts that may be illegal.

You lower your standards for who and what you do with who you date because the desire for a relationship is stronger than the desire to obey God.

Therefore, under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up (what you want is what He wants. God is as interested in you maximizing your potential as you are.) God wants you to be free of the weight you're carrying around, and that starts with humility.

in due time. This is the part we don't like. We want a fix NOW. When God is ready He will lift you up past the things that keep you down. If you humble yourself, there is a right and a wrong time for these desires to go away.

We buy houses, cars, get married, move, quit jobs, take jobs without focusing on obeying God first. He wants you to have those things *in due time*. God wants to use it to grow you into what He wants you to be. It's up to God when we are able to get past...

Cast all your anxiety on him (NASB says casting, the word casting is a participle in Greek that is used in a tense that is in relationship with word, humble) so the words go together.

While you are doing the above, Humbling, you can cast... the word translated anxiety always refers to the unavoidable stresses of life – you have to pay taxes, you have to live indoors, you have to eat, you have to take care of family.) When you humble yourself, you have the permission to hand God all the stress related to those things.

because he cares for you

(the word, cares, conveys the idea YOU matter to God. He is truly concerned about your life and what you need.

The idea is that if we focus on obeying God, then God will take care of the rest.

We have two options:

- . We can try to take care it ourselves, knowing we can't...
- . Or let God handle it, knowing He can.

Motto: God assumes total responsibility for the life surrendered to Him.

Maybe you could say it like this: God, You knew what I was getting into, so I'm trusting you to get me out.

There is a huge relationship between Humility, Obedience and Trust.

Remember the old hymn – “trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey”