

# **Obedience, Submission or Ascension?**

A girl once, in a confession, told me that when she was selecting a dress to wear that she really liked, her mother commented about how beautiful the dress was. The girl then unconsciously put it back and picked another one. She asked me: “why did I do that if I love my mother dearly and respect her opinion?”

The problem this girl has, as many others do, including mature ones, is that she does not understand how to obey or accept the opinions of others.

## **Who is the greatest?**

Who is the greatest? He who orders or he who obeys? Many would answer he who orders. Therefore, they refuse to obey, thinking that they assert their individuality and independence.

Luke’s Gospel tells us that Jesus Christ was obedient to the Holy Virgin and Saint Joseph (Lu 2:51) Who is the greatest here? He who orders or he who obeys? We order and the incarnated Creator obeys? He presents a new meaning to obedience! Obedience does not destroy man’s personality, nor does it reduce his pride and make him less than those who give orders. Rather, it uncovers an expanded heart and mature mind who is concerned with the comfort of others more than his own.

Also, in the epistle to the Hebrews: “??”(Hebrews 5:8), i.e., The Son, who was

equal to the Father, obeyed till His death through the cross in order to carry us with Him through his Royal way ... the way of obedience. The obedience of the Son did not take away his equality to the Father.

## **Obedience is Graciousness and Dignity**

We don’t obey others because they are better than we are, nor do we expect any gain from our obedience, but to obtain the glory of sharing the trait of obedience with Christ. Sharing our Christ in his obedience is a glory we do not deserve.

## **Obedience, a Sign of Wisdom and Maturity**

“no”, “*I said no*” seem to be the first words that little toddlers learn first. They repeat these words to assert their independence, not realizing that this behavior reveals their immature personalities.

A wise and mature person is able through his love, humility, and obedience to make others happy and delights in their happiness.

## **Obey your Children**

We demand obedience from our children as if we have wisdom and authority while they lack, experience, wisdom and the right to discuss.

Let us teach our children obedience by obeying them in what is right and through our discussions with them in the spirit of understanding and respect to their opinions ...

## **Complain about Contempt and Disobedience?**

Many of our teenagers practice what we call contempt and disobedience and we often complain that they disobey for no apparent reason. Their contempt is a reaction to our practice of unquestioned authority and orders since they were little children. Then comes the day when they burst and we think that they are wrong and we are right. We don’t remember how we destroyed their spirits with our bad behavior in their early childhood!

## **Let us Learn Dialog and Obedience from God**

God delights when his weak creation engages in a dialog with him, as Abraham did before the burning of Sodom and Gomorra (Gen ?), and as Moses talked to God as a friend (Ex ??). God asks us “let us reason together” (Ish 1;18)

As for obedience, Moses says: ?? (??).