

The Anatomy of a Church (47)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 01/25/15)

The Internal Systems-2

OBEDIENCE

When we're filled with the Spirit, we're able to reach out to unbelievers and set an example for those who watch how we live. Jesus says in [Luke 6:46](#), "Why call you me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" If Jesus is Lord of your life, you should do what He asks you to do.

[Luke 6:46-49 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴⁶ "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

⁴⁷ "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:

⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

⁴⁹ "But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

[Matthew 7:13-14](#) says that the path to salvation is narrow.

[Matthew 7:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

¹⁴ "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

That's because it is confined by God's will, law, and Word.

We are to affirm Christ as Lord ([Romans 10:9-10](#)) and submit to His lordship. That means living a life of obedience.

[Romans 10:9-10 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

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I remember years ago a man who watched our television program sent a letter and a telling me about a matter that was on his heart. He talked about how he appreciated our study of the Bible on our television program. Then he said he had many sins in his life that God was working on, one of which he wanted to ask me about. He said that he had never had normal feelings toward women; instead, he had a strong sexual attraction to large farm animals.

He went on to add, however, that he didn't think his desire for animals constituted a problem because he didn't feel guilty about it. He said that the Lord was refining him in other areas, not that one. An eight-page letter was sent back to him explaining that his problem is a serious sin in the eyes of God.

In fact, if he had lived in the Old Testament era, he would have been killed, for [Leviticus 20:15](#) says, **“If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.”**

[Leviticus 20:9-16 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ 'If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.

¹⁰ 'If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

¹¹ ~'If there is a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

¹² ~'If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

¹³ ~'If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

¹⁴ ~'If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst.

¹⁵ ~'If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.

¹⁶ ~'If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

The letter kindly expressed that God doesn't select certain sins to work on and leave others alone. Every sin is an affront to His holy name. Several Scripture references were given in the letter to support what was said.

A while later, that man sent another letter to me.

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He said, “I don’t think anybody understands. Christians are so tangled up in the Bible that they don’t understand how God works and feels.”

That’s a revealing statement. Unfortunately, it reflects a widespread attitude. But it is disastrous theology. How are we going to know how God feels about something except by reading the Bible? That man didn’t want to listen to what God had to say about his problem because he didn’t want to be confronted with his own guilt.