**Obedience**

**Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth**

**so that you have genuine mutual love,**

**love one another deeply from the heart.**

***(1 Peter 1:22)***

**Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed. *(Francis Bacon)***

**Only he who believes is obedient; only he who is obedient, believes. *(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)***

**Arguments worth having: Parents who browbeat their kids into being obedient and agreeable may not be giving them the best preparation for the real world. A new study shows that encouraging teens to argue calmly and effectively against parental orders makes them much more likely to resist peer pressure. University of Virginia researchers observed more than 150 13-year-olds as they disputed issues like grades, chores, and friends with their mothers. When researchers checked back in with the teens two and three years later, they found that those who had argued the longest and most convincingly – without yelling, whining, or throwing insults – were also 40 percent less likely to have accepted offers of drugs and alcohol than the teens who had caved quickly. “We found that what a teen learned in handling these kinds of disagreements with their parents was exactly what they took into their peer world,” study author Joseph P. Tells NPR.org. The key to having a constructive debate with your kids, experts say, is listening to them attentively and rewarding them when they make a good point – even if you don’t end up reaching a mutual agreement. “Think of those arguments not as a nuisance,” Allen says, “but as a critical training ground” for wise, independent decision-making. *(The Week magazine, January 20, 2012)***

**"If you do what people tell you to do," say the Bulgarians, "you'll fish for rabbits in the sea and hunt fish in the forest." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When someone demands blind obedience, you'd be a fool not to peek. *(Jim Fiebig, NANA)***

**DOCTOR’S ORDERS: A nervous man went in to see his doctor one day. His doctor, somewhat perturbed, exclaimed, “I see you’re over a month late for your appointment. Don’t you know that nervous disorders require prompt and regular attention? What’s your excuse?” The man replied, “I was just following your orders, Doc.” The doctor, now nearly shouting, said, “Following my orders? What are you talking about? I gave you no such order.” “Yes, you did!” the man replied, “You told me to avoid people that yell and situations that make me nervous.” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Every great person has first learned how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun*. (Katharine Hepburn)***

**Jesus taught that we can incorporate life-giving rays into our mind, body, and affairs through faith. Where physicists merely describe the mechanical presence of life as energy, Jesus taught man how by the exercise of his mind he can make that life obey him. Instead of a universe of blind mechanical forces Jesus showed the universe to be persuaded and directed by intelligence. *(Charles Fillmore, in Prosperity, introduction)***

**Good week for: Knowing your place, after Roy and Dorothy Fleming of Brookfield, Wisconsin, celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary. “He knows who’s boss. That’s how we got along,” said Dorothy, 95. “Whatever she says is right,” agreed Roy, 100. *(The Week magazine, February 17, 2012)***

**I’d been secretly dating for several months, and it was time to break the news to my very protective father. My mother thought he’d take it better if she explained to him that my boyfriend was a Marine who had just returned from Under Muslim law, a man cannot take orders from a woman. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 185)***

**General Nicolas Bravo (1784-1854) while fighting for Mexico's independence in 1813, captured 300 Spanish soldiers who had just executed his father, but instead of executing them he set all 300 free -- pointing out that they had only been obeying orders from their military commanders. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!)***

**Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it. *(William Penn)***

**It ain’t what people call you. It’s what you answer to. *(Quoted by Tyler Perry, in Madea’s Family Reunion)***

**Franklin Roosevelt wondered frequently during the 1932 electoral campaign at what he saw as the surprising docility of the American people in the face of the Depression. “Repeatedly he spoke of this,” his aide Rexford Tugwell recalled, “saying that it was enormously puzzling to him that the ordeal of the past three years had been endured so peaceably.” That old passivity has intrigued historians, who have noted that it forced Roosevelt to simultaneously invent the tools to combat the Depression and establish their very legitimacy in the eyes of the people. *(David M. Kennedy, in Time magazine)***

**The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum. *(Noam Chomsky)***

**A teenager ordered to tidy his room by his long-suffering mother really cleaned up when he discovered a winning lottery ticket in the mess. Ryan Kitching, 19, of Penicuik, Scotland, won over $83,000 after finding a pile of discarded lottery tickets buried in a drawer. Kitching's mother said she had been nagging her son to clean his room for several weeks. The teenager said he'd treat her to a holiday with his winnings -- and keep his room tidier in the future. "I won't need telling twice," he said. *(The Week magazine, March 16, 2012)***

**My children often disagreed with me, thank God! I’d no objection at all to their being disobedient. Parents should remember that besides being parents, they are also the bone on which the puppy can shape its teeth. *(Peter Ustinov)***

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