

Title: Uncomfortable Obedience

Text: *“So that even if some do not obey the word, they may be **won without a word** by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”* (1 Peter 3:1-2)

Target: You are not being rejected, you are being refined.

1. **Jesus Said It:** *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world,”* (John 15:18-20)
 - a. **Reordered Allegiance:** *“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’”* (Luke 9:23)
 - b. **Relationships get Reshaped:** *“...For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.”* (Matthew 10:34-36)
 - c. **Rejection is Experienced:** *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”* (2 Timothy 3:12)
 - d. **Required Sacrifice:** *“And he answered them, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.’”* (Mark 3:33-35)
2. **You Live It:** *“...If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”* (Galatians 1:10)
 - a. **Set an Anchor of Identity:** *“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* (Colossians 3:3)
 - b. **Show Grace in Opposition:** *“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame”* (1 Peter 3:15-16)
 - c. **Stay Firm in Conviction:** *“...Urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”* (Ephesians 4:1-2)
 - d. **Set Healthy Boundaries:** *“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23)
3. **They See It:** *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)
 - a. **A Peace that Surpasses:** *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - b. **A Love that’s Unconditional:** *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

- c. **A Humility that Admits Imperfection:** *“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”* (James 4:6)
 - d. **A Forgiveness that Releases:** *“Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”* (Colossians 3:13)
 - e. **A Life on Mission:** *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33)
 - f. **A Hope that doesn’t Collapse:** *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”* (Romans 15:13)
4. **We See It:** *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”* (Hebrews 10:23)
- a. **We See your Courage:** *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - b. **The Pain still Hurts:** *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”* (Proverbs 13:12)
 - c. **God Still is Working:** *“...God acts for those who wait for him.”* (Isaiah 64:4)
 - d. **Don’t Give Up:** *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* (Galatians 6:9)

Takeaway: The same life they question today may become the testimony they follow tomorrow.