

This weekend's readings land on a topic we do not typically like, namely that we owe God submission to His will and obedience to His laws. Submission and obedience are words that typically we run from, when it comes to an argument or other people, it seems like we are being controlled or are the less powerful in a situation. But in our lives, loving relationships require both. We could be talking about what we owe our parents, or what we owe our spouses. In the context of love, these cringy words take on new meaning, mutual sacrifice and selflessness grow out of obedience and submission. Love takes away the fear of being controlled or used. It is a trust born out through time and experience.

We owe God both obedience and submission, if we truly love God, then we will try and live lives that obey His rules for relationship. The ten commandments and Christ's sermon on the mount are prime examples, and while they require sacrifices of time and freedom, they allow us to dive deeply into the waters of relationship, both with God and others.

It requires time and energy on our part to listen to God in prayer, to submit to His will instead of our own. Discipleship also requires spending time in His love letter to us, the Scriptures. In them we find a God that loves us deeply and completely. God wants the best for us, but this life of discipleship requires us to look at ourselves and the world through God's perspective and not our own.

Our own experiences in the world may make us leery or scared to trust. The misuse of our freewill may be twisted, reinterpreting Scripture to coincide with the way we are living our lives, requiring no change on our part. God will respect those experiences and our decisions, but it will come at a profound cost. Minus submission and obedience our relationship with Him will lack depth, our relationship with others will be marred by selfishness. Put out into the deep, follow God into the unknown, trust in a love from which we were created.