

Obedience in the life of Youth

One of the subjects which always occupy the thoughts of youth is, “Why should I obey? To what extent? Isn’t obedience against my freedom? What could I gain from obedience? Is it really necessary? Who should I obey?”... These and many other questions may have struggled in your mind many times... Dear friend, if you made your eyes go through the following lines, you will find the answer to your questions.

Obedience gives you wisdom because it teaches learning and listening, and through obedience, you get the experience of the elders.

You may ask who should I obey? The answer is, first God, and second those who have experience in life – in the Lord (Eph 6:1) – including the parents, the elders and the clerics, etc.

Obedience, and being under guidance, keeps you safe and protects you from misleading ways which may seem straight in your eyes... This over head view from the others will give you awareness of what you don’t see far ahead and will prevent you from getting involved in what you may regret for.

Sometimes you find obedience hard because you find it against your will or a certain desire inside you, but at that time remember what St. Peter said that “We must obey God rather more than men – including ourselves” (Acts 5:29) and we hear the result from Jeremiah the prophet saying “Amend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the misfortune which He has pronounced against you” (Jer 26:13) because nothing comes equal to obeying the commandments of God, and this is very clear in the words of Samuel “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Sam 15:22).

Obedience is a fruit and at the same time a root for humbleness and it drives the love of others to you... When you obey, you force the heart of the other to be opened more to you and you obtain easy access to both, the heart of God and others.

Through obedience, you get many blessings, and this is what Job the righteous concluded after his long experience in his temptation and he summed it up in one verse and said “If they hear and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasures” (Job 36:11), And the same is conducted to us by the wisest man ever when he wrote “The conclusion when all has been heard is, fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person” (Ecc 12:13).