

Why do we have rules? Why do we have to obey rules?

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

In God’s house, there is order made possible by obedience to eternal laws and other earthly structures put in place by God (families, the church). God expects his children to obey Him and His laws.

Christ taught, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments....He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, the same it is that loveth me.” (John 14:15, 20)*

In our family, we believe in God and this rule of law. We believe that obedience to law and respect for law-givers is an essential element of successful societies. Without the rule of law and respect for law-givers, there is chaos, contention, confusion. The Spirit cannot abide in such a society. Societies in which the people are willing to obey the laws experience peace and order. The people are happy. God blesses them.

“And we did observe to keep the judgments, and the statutes, and the commandments of the Lord in all things.... And the Lord was with us; and we did prosper exceedingly... And it came to pass that we lived after the manner of happiness.” (2 Nephi 5:10,11,27)

Families are the smallest form of society. They are a society’s building blocks. What children do not learn at home, they cannot contribute to their larger community. We believe in God, and we believe in obedience to God’s laws, and so we practice obedience to our parents and the rules they set forth in our home.

“Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” (Colossians 3:20)

“We learn obedience throughout our lives. Beginning when we are very young, those responsible for our care set forth guidelines and rules to ensure our safety. Life would be simpler for all of us if we would obey such rules completely. Many of us, however, learn through experience the wisdom of being obedient.” (President Monson, “Obedience Brings Blessings,” April 2013 General Conference.)

In our home, we have rules that help us to be happy, healthy, safe, and peaceful. When a child disobeys a rule, they will learn through experience that blessings come through obedience, not through disobedience. Obedience to family rules brings privileges, and we lose those privileges when we disobey.

“My brothers and sisters, the great test of this life is obedience. “We will prove them herewith,” said the Lord, “to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them... As the Savior instructed His early Apostles, so He instructs you and me, “Follow thou me.” [John 21:22] Are we willing to obey? It is my humble prayer that we may be blessed with the rich rewards promised to the obedient.” (President Monson, “Obedience Brings Blessings,” April 2013 General Conference.)