



October 2008

Monthly Character e-Bulletin

Building Communities of Character

Obedience (vs. willfulness)

The accepted definition of obedience is to quickly and cheerfully carry out the direction of those who are responsible for us.

However, obeying does not mean that we are to do whatever we are asked regardless of what that thing is. Our obedience should be based on what is true and right. As seen in this light, obeying means having the good character to stand for what is right, even when wrong is easier.

When we search for the meaning of obedience we discover that in Hebrew the root word "obey" means to understand, to give heed, or to hear intelligently. Further research shows that obedience is not considered an optional quality, and gaining wisdom and understanding is a byproduct of obeying.

Therefore, to gain wisdom in life is to learn to obey; especially, obedience to that inner voice that speaks truth

to us and guides our actions toward developing good character.

As a means to evaluate our level of obedience (and good character) we can ask ourselves the following questions:

Do we blindly obey, surrendering our personal responsibilities?

Do we accept "no" as the final answer, without challenging or making appeals?

Do we delay or object when given a command?

Do we respond cheerfully to requests?

Do we find ways to overcome obstacles?

Do we complete even the little or mundane tasks?

Do we follow instructions without assuming or guessing?

Do we whine or cynically question the job or task

we've been given to accomplish?

Do we pit one authority against another, scheme, or withhold important facts?

Do we put all our energies into a task?



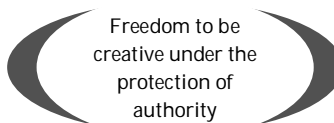
Obey my authorities immediately

Have a cheerful attitude

Complete all that I am expected to do

Not complain

Go the "extra mile"



The mission of Prattville-Autauga Character Coalition is to strengthen our communities by promoting excellence in character for each citizen.

Visions of Character

"Obedience is the one qualification for further vision."
- G. Campbell Morgan

For more information visit the Prattville Autauga Character Coalition website at www.pacharacter.org

131 North Court Street, Prattville, AL 36067

334-365-7392

pacharacter@att.net