



# LOVE GOD

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# OBEY GOD

## Introduction

The exercise that follows is simple. It is so simple, in fact, that it could be faked. The questions are not lengthy or complex. The time needed to fill in the blanks could be mere minutes.

Or the exercise could take time, be profound, and change your life.

Very simply, you're asked to do two things.

- 1) Talk with God about you.
- 2) Talk with at least one other person about you.

The curious thing about hypocrisy and disobedience is that while it is almost immediately evident in others, it can be difficult to see in ourselves. As hypocrites, we are masters of self-justification. So if you really want to discover if there are areas of hypocrisy in your own life, asking others is a powerful tool.

You will ask God and others two questions. The two questions address legalism and licentiousness.

Given the nature of these questions, consider carefully who you ask to help you.

- 1) Do I trust this person?
- 2) Does this person know me well enough to answer the questions effectively?

Finally, a word of caution. Throughout this exercise, guard against condemnation. Yes, the purpose is to inspire love for God by surfacing hypocrisy and disobedience. But the purpose of surfacing this hypocrisy is not self-loathing, but freedom.

Conviction brings freedom and is from God; condemnation brings oppression and is from the enemy. While both conviction and condemnation are deeply penetrating and often painful, only conviction is accompanied by a sense of hope and promise for the future. Scripture reminds us that there is "*no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:1).

God brings conviction because he wants for us a better tomorrow. The enemy brings condemnation because he wants for us a life of despair. As you engage this exercise, be careful to stay open to hopeful conviction while guarding against despairing condemnation.

## Step 1: Write a Prayer

Use this page to write a prayer to God. Ask God to give you eyes that see what he wants you to see and ears that hear what he wants you to hear. Ask for a humble and open heart. Ask that you hear his voice of conviction and not the accuser's voice of condemnation.



## Step 2: Ask God

Ask God the following two questions and record any response you hear in the space provided.

Legalism: Do I carry the name of Christ while inwardly still trusting in myself or something other than you?

License: Do I use grace as a license to sin?

Ask God: What are current areas of disobedience or hypocrisy in my life?



### Step 3: Ask Others

Ask one or two trusted friends the same questions and record their responses in the space provided.

Legalism: Do you sense that I carry the name of Christ outwardly while inwardly still trusting in myself or something other than God?

License: Do you see areas of my life where I use grace as a license to sin?

Ask your friend: What are current areas of disobedience or hypocrisy you see in my life?



## Step 4: Final Thoughts

The great irony and tragedy of hypocrisy is that we discover it and then attempt to beat it in our own strength. Use this space to entrust yourself to God. If you have uncovered hypocrisy or disobedience through this exercise, bring it before God, ask him for his grace, and ask him for his power to overcome. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to raise us up and out of our sin. *“Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”* (Romans 6:4).

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