

WEIGHTIER
MATTERS OF
THE LAW



February 24, 2024

The Nature of Authority

Everyone is subject to someone or something

Family

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Eph 6:1

“...wives, be subject to your own husbands...” I Pet 3:1

“...subject yourselves **to one another** in the fear of Christ.” Eph 5:21

Church – “I urge elders among you...to shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight...” 1 Peter 5:1

Government – “Obey your leaders and submit to them” Heb 13:17

“Whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God...” Rom 13:2

Jobs – “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people...” Col 3:23

Society (social norms)

Laws of nature



All Authority is Derived from God

“For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”
Romans 13:1

“O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations?” **2 Chron 20:6**

“O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this...”” **Romans 9:19**

God is under no authority:

“Even from eternity I am He” **Isaiah 43:13**

“But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” **Psalms 115:3**

“He does according to His will in the host of heaven. And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand. Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” – **Daniel 4:35**

Even nature submits: “The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”” – **Matt 8:27**



Obedience to God

“You shall therefore love the Lord your God, and always keep His directives, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.” **Duet 11:1**

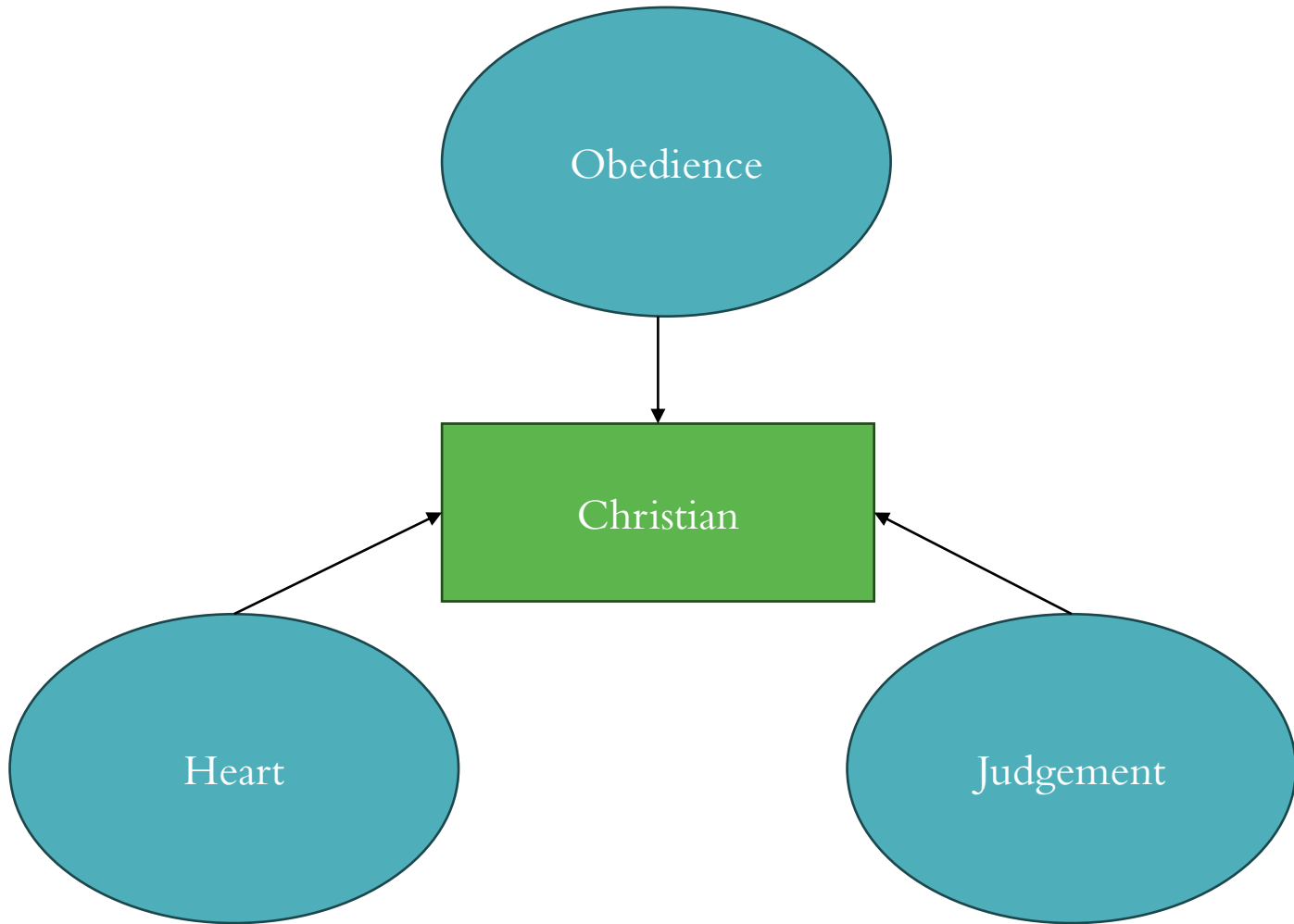
“You are My friends if you do what I command you.” **John 15:14**

“...the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” **John 3:36**

[The] gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now has been disclosed, and through the Scriptures of the prophets, in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith...

Romans 16:25





WHEREAS, The Parties are lawfully wedded under the laws of Washington County, and have agreed to undertake specific obligations to maintain and enhance the emotional and celebratory fabric of their matrimonial union;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, The Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1.1 Anniversary Celebration: The husband shall commemorate the annual recurrence of the matrimonial union's inception date with a minimum of one (1) surprise element, one (1) written expression of enduring affection, and one (1) dining experience exceeding the median quality of all dining experiences over the preceding year.

1.2 Birthday Acknowledgment: The husband shall, without fail, recognize the annual celebration of the wife's birth with no fewer than three (3) distinct gestures of affection, which shall include, but not be limited to, a verbal declaration of admiration, a tangible gift of sentimental value, and an activity designed to engender joy and/or relaxation in the wife.

1.3 Valentine's Day Compliance: On the 14th day of February of each year, the husband shall engage in the traditional expressions of romantic affection, herein to include the procurement of floral arrangements (red roses preferred, barring allergies), confectioneries of a chocolate basis, and a handwritten note of no less than one hundred (100) words expressing undying love and devotion.

Heart: Mere Observance of Law is Insufficient

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” **James 2:26**

Thoughts, intentions, and actions are all significant for a Christian.

Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’“

Matt 22:37

Christians and the Heart

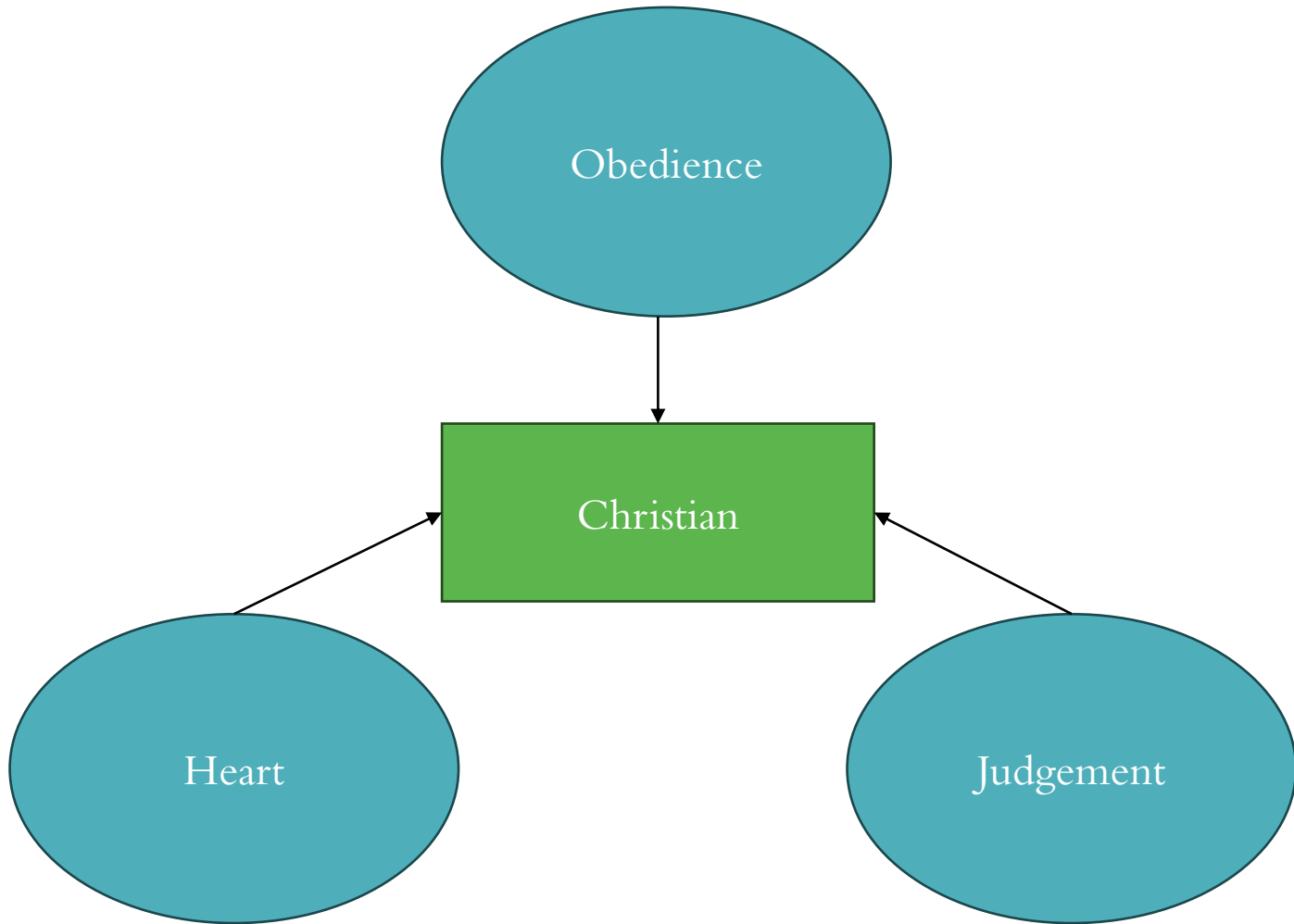


God speaking: “My son, **give me your heart** and let your eyes delight in my ways.”

Proverbs 23:36

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me **with all your heart**, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” **Joel 2:12**





Law – Judgement – Wisdom

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the **more important matters of the law**—justice, mercy and faithfulness.” **Matt 23:2**

We need to judge (discern) relative importance of laws and actions

Good judgement comes from wisdom, and wisdom come from...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction, and do not ignore your mother’s teaching; For they are a graceful wreath for your head and necklaces for your neck. **Proverbs 1:7**

What are the weightier matter of the law?

Weightier Matters of the Law

Justice – Fairness and righteousness when dealing with others

Mercy – compassion and kindness to those in need

Faithfulness – loyalty and fidelity to God, as a relationship

I Cor 13: “And now these three remain: **faith**, **hope** and **love**. But the greatest of these is love.”

Love: ←

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” **I Cor 13:1**

Judgement: Good, Better, Best (and wrong)

Response to Criticism

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful.” I Cor 6:12

	Angry	Irritated	Passive	Kindness and Humor
Evaluate Criticism	Poor	Good	Better	Best
Ignore Criticism without Evaluation	Bad	Poor	Poor	Poor
Use Counter-Criticism	Bad	Poor	Poor	Good
Malevolence	Worst	Bad	Bad	Bad

Giving to God vs Caring for your Family

Mark 7:9 [Jesus] was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘The one who speaks evil of father or mother, is certainly to be put to death’; 11 but you say, ‘If a person says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is, given to God),’ 12 you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother; 13 thereby invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

Using law to justify violating a weightier matter of the law



OSKAR
SCHINDLER



Subterfuge to Save a Life

Rahab: “4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 It came about, when it was time to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” 6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof.” **Joshua 2:4**

Be a truth-teller, yes. But the weightier matter of the law is Justice.

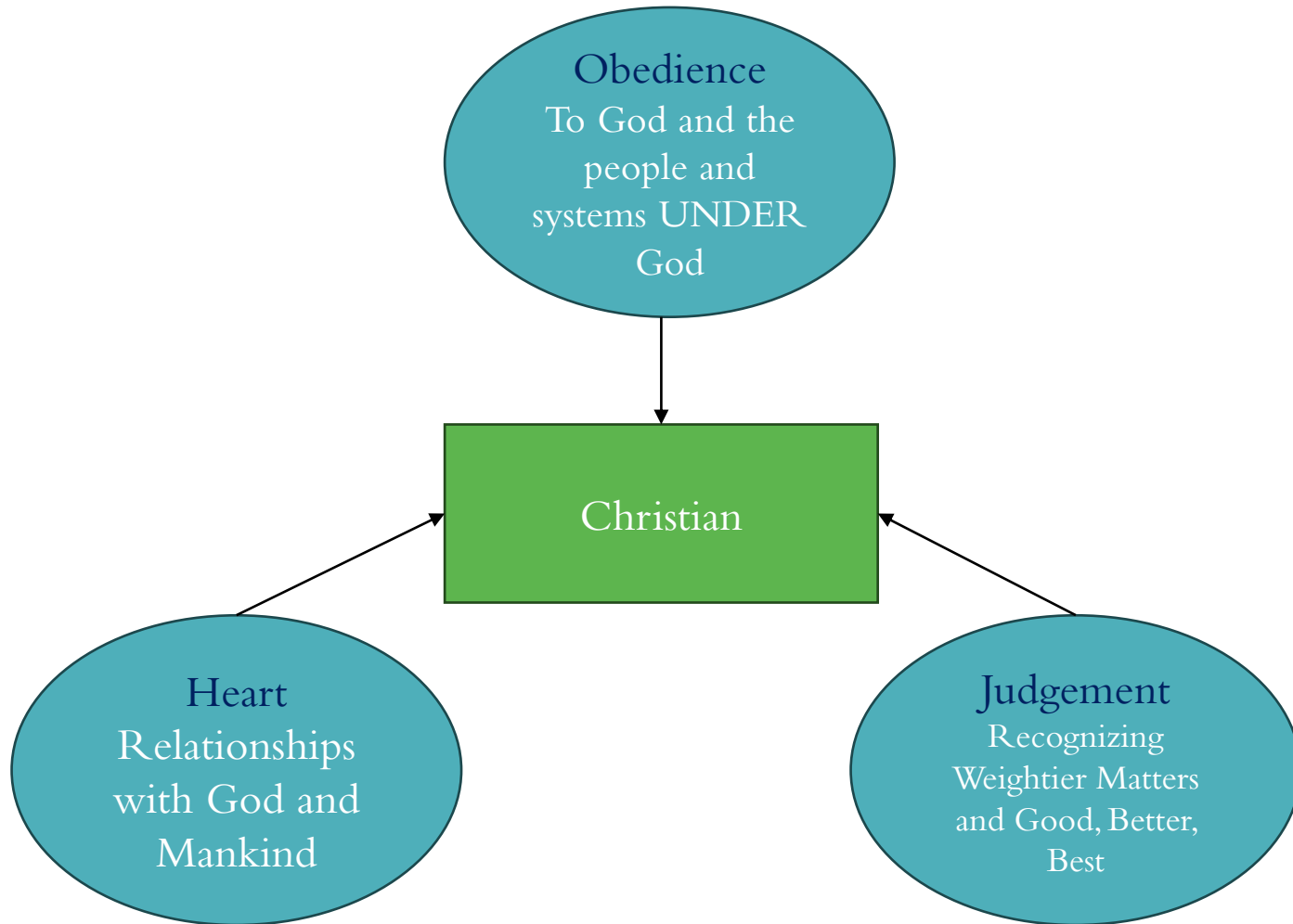
Rahab was justified in what she did



“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

James 2:24





	Poor Judgement	Good Judgment	Without Heart	With Heart
Obedient	Growth	Growth	Repentance	Growth
Disobedient	Repentance	Repentance	Repentance	Repentance

Obedience without heart

- 1) Going through the motions; liturgy with apathy; Catholicism.
- 2) Singing, taking the Lord's supper, but ignoring visitors.

Heart without obedience

- 1) Purely charismatic religion.
- 2) "I feel like God would want me to be happy."
- 3) "I ignore the Word of God, but I'm a good person."

Obedience without good judgment

- 1) Critical disposition ("bind heavy burdens") vs. willingness to help.
- 2) Provide for family, but ignore their other needs.
- 3) Hover near situations which bring temptation or dangerous influences.

	Poor Judgement	Good Judgment	Without Heart	With Heart
Obedient	Growth	Growth	Repentance	Growth
Disobedient	Repentance	Repentance	Repentance	Repentance

Disobedience

I Corinthians 6:9

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: [no sinners] will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you.”

Redemption

Ephesians 1:7

“In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight”

