

Obedience vs. Obeisance

A cause is fostered
by obedience,
but hampered
by obeisance..

Obedience is passionate
for what is right;
obeisance settles
for ritual.

Obedience listens and learns;
obeisance bows and scrapes.
Obedience meditates and anticipates;
obeisance complies and simulates.
Obedience studies and examines;
obeisance conforms and repeats.

Obedience raises questions;
obeisance rehearses answers.
Obedience prizes honesty;
obeisance seeks honors.
Obedience pays heed;
obeisance gives homage.

Obedience cooperates
when it accomplishes.
Obeisance flatters
as it fawns.

God and people
deserve our authentic
obedience,
not our superficial
obeisance.

Obedience discerns;
obeisance is uncritical.
Obedience converses;
obeisance is unilateral.
Obedience serves;
obeisance is obsequious.

© *Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski*
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Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org

Obedience speaks
to my freedom.
Obeisance carries
the other's favor.

Obedience is difficult
and costly;
obeisance is easy
and profitable.
Obedience grapples
and cares;
obeisance grovels
and caters.
Obedience is open
and docile;
obeisance is stunted
and blind.