# Submission

*I started this sermon three years ago, and lost track of source (others or my own?) and also don’t recall why I did not present.*

NOTES: Rework to clump like thoughts (when it is okay to break the submission rule and the implications. Add more about James 4:10 – jesus is our example of this!)

1. Introduction: Ephesians 5-6:9
   1. What is the point of the passage?
      * + 1. “be imitators of Christ” v. Ephesians 5:1
          2. “walk in love” v. Ephesians 5:2
          3. “Walk as children of light” v. Ephesians 5:8
          4. “Look carefully then how you walk” v. Ephesians 5:15
   2. Submission is a primary focus in order to accomplish being an imitator of Christ: walking in love, as children of light, and carefully
      * + 1. “to one another” v. Ephesians 5:21
          2. “Wives…to…husbands” v. Ephesians 5:22
          3. “the church…to Christ” v. Ephesians 5:24
          4. (obey) children to parents v. Ephesians 6:1
          5. (obey) slaves to masters v. Ephesians 6:5
2. What is subjection?
   1. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition (from Dictionary.com)
      * + 1. [Verb Transitive (w/ object)] To yield or surrender (oneself) to the will or authority of another.
          2. [Verb Intransitive (w/o object)] To give in to the authority, power, or desires of another.
   2. Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:
      * + 1. To yield, resign or surrender to the power, will or authority of another; with the reciprocal pronoun.

Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hand. Genesis 16.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands. Ephesians 5.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man. 1 Peter 2.

* 1. Two types of submission
     1. Involuntary
        + 1. Where failure to submit will result in forced submission
          2. Such as government where failure to submit will result in prison, fines, loss of privilege or even life
     2. Voluntary
        + 1. Where we chose to submit by our own free will
          2. Such as:

Wife to the husband

To one another

1. Who are we subject to?
   1. World
      * + 1. Government: Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2
          2. Employer: Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Peter 2:18-21
   2. Spiritual
      * + 1. Husband (wife): Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:3
          2. Parents (children): Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21; (Luke 2:41-52; 1 Timothy 3:4; Hebrews 12:9)
          3. Elders: 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17
          4. Each other: Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)
          5. God and Christ: Ephesians 5:24; James 4:7; Hebrews 12:9
2. How are we to be submissive? 1 Peter 2:11-3:7
   1. Jesus is given in 1 Peter 2:21 as an example, why?
      * + 1. Jesus is our example of how to be submissive.
          2. Jesus has authority

Angels, authorities, and powers have been made subject to him – 1 Peter 3:22

All things are in subject to Christ – Hebrews 2:5-8

* + - * 1. Jesus is subject – 1 Corinthians 15:27-28

Jesus came to do the will of his Father – John 6:37-38

Jesus humbled himself – Philippians 2:5-8

* + - * 1. Was Jesus’ submission conditional?

Did he only follow His Father’s will so long as:

He was treated fairly?

It was easy?

It was popular or normal?

Jesus’ submission was unconditional!

How? He trusted God and prayed! – Matthew 26:36-39

* 1. Government – 1 Peter 2:13-17
     + - 1. Submission to the government is an involuntary action – we will always be under some government no matter where we live.

Submission to rulers is not optional – Titus 3:1-2

Our submission to the government reflects upon God and his word.

Governments are not independent. They are subject to God, from whom they derive their authority – Romans 13:1-7

If they require us to violate God’s will, then we must remain submissive to the king’s king – Acts 5:29 (We must obey God rather than Men!)

* + - * 1. What if the government violates God’s laws?

Our Government is in violation – they condone the murder of the innocent through defense of abortion as a right

Rulers will answer to God, from whom they derive their authority.

However, their evil is not permission for Christians to rebel.

Daniel’s service to his king is an example of submission to God and the King – Daniel 6

The government Paul and Peter wrote Christians to submit to was the one which persecuted Christians, murdering them for their faith. Yet no Christian led an armed rebellion against their government.

They allowed themselves to be mistreated.

They remained in submission.

Consider again Acts 5:27-29, what did they do in Acts 5:40-42? They did not curse the government who had wrongfully treated them!

Submission to the law does not give us as Christians right to partake in legal sinful activities. (1 Corinthians 10:23)

* + - * 1. But what if I disagree with the law?

The only exception is if the government requires you to violate God’s law. You serve God first. (Acts 5:27-29)

In America, we may enjoy Freedom of Speech and forget submission

We have legal, peaceful methods to effect change

Esther is a good example of someone in submission changing a law using the law

* 1. Master / slave relationship – 1 Peter 2:18-20
     + - 1. They are to submit to their master’s will so no disrespect is reflected on the Gospel – 1 Timothy 6:1-2
         2. This is to a person’s credit, because it shows he is conscious of God – Titus 2:9-10
         3. Masters are not the ultimate rulers. They too are in subjection to one who is greater – Ephesians 6:9
         4. It doesn’t matter if the master is good or bad. The properly submissive servant recognizes that he is submitting to his master’s master – Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25

The master will answer to Christ for his actions, regardless of how his servant behaves

The servant will answer to Christ for his actions, regardless of how his master behaves.

* 1. Boss / Employee relationship, applicable?
     + - 1. Often many feel like a slave to their boss, they are mistaken.

They are slaves to their own thinking, their fears, and actions.

Usually due to the debt they have taken on, the fear of change or the unknown, or their marketability.

* + - * 1. If you don’t like an employer, you are free to seek other employment.
        2. However, our actions must remain respectful to whomever we have placed ourselves into subjection.
        3. But what if our employer wants us to do something that violates God’s law?

Remember you are serving your master’s master – God and His laws always come first.

Violation in one area is not permission to be rebellious in all other things.

* + - * 1. What if an employer is violating God’s law in his treatment of us?

Then that person will give an account to his master.

Remember what Peter said in I Peter 2:18-20

Hagar ran away when Sara mistreated her, but God told her to return – Genesis 16:9

You may decide it is time to seek employment elsewhere, but until the time you leave, you owe your employer good, respectful service.

We should never repay evil with evil – Romans 12:14, 17-21

* 1. A Wife to their Husband – 1 Peter 3:1-7
     + - 1. “In the same way, . . .” submission of a wife to her husband is no different from the submission of a citizen to the government or a slave to a master, or Christ to God’s will.
         2. Like the citizen or the slave, a wife’s submission reflects upon God and His Word – Titus 2:5
         3. Choose your husband wisely!
         4. Husbands are not the ultimate authority. Christ is the head of every man – 1 Corinthians 11:3

One of the ways a wife serves Christ is through submitting to her husband – Ephesians 5:22-24.

She is serving her husband, but it is actually service to Christ. – Colossians 3:18

As with the slave or the citizen, this means that service to Christ comes first, period.

* + - * 1. What if my husband wants me to do something that violates God’s law?

Then God’s will comes first as the higher authority.

His rebellion against God is not an excuse for you to rebel against your husband in other matters

* + - * 1. What if my husband doesn’t do his part in giving me honor?

Then he will answer to God for his sins.

But you cannot use the sin of another as an excuse to sin.

Each will answer to God solely for what they alone did.

Similarly, husbands, just because you may have a rebellious wife is no excuse not to give her love and honor as you have been commanded.

* 1. Children must be in subjection to their parents – Ephesians 6:1-4
     + - 1. It doesn’t matter that this submission is not voluntary.
         2. It doesn’t matter if you have good or bad parents.
         3. However, notice that phrase “in the Lord.” Your parents are not the ultimate authority.

If they require you to violate God’s will, then you must remain faithful to God.

If they do want you to do wrong, it doesn’t mean you can disobey them in other things as well.

You will answer to God for your obedience to His will first, and your parents’ will second.

* + - * 1. They will answer for their actions to God regardless of how good of a child you are.
  1. Elders: 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17
     + - 1. Those who serve under the leadership of elders must obey and submit to them

They are keeping watch over your soul

They will have to give account for how they did this

* + - * 1. Submit without causing grief to the elders – what’s the point of causing them grief?
        2. We can do this through:

Respecting them and esteeming them highly in love because of their work

Humbling ourselves to them. Don’t be proud.

* 1. Each other:
     + - 1. Submit to each other out of reverence to Christ – Ephesians 5:21
         2. Submit to one another due to the work they perform in the name of Christ – 1 Corinthians 16:15-18
         3. 1 Peter 5:5 give me insight into what this means – be submissive to one another, clothed with humility
       1. 1 Peter 5:5 KJV – “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”
          1. Don’t dominate each other with our personal desires
          2. Don’t be so proud we cannot ask for help and don’t be so proud we don’t help others.

1. COnclusion
   * + - 1. We must be submissive to God and Christ – Ephesians 5:24; James 4:7; Hebrews 12:9
         2. We will all submit to the Lord one day

Jesus humbled himself so that this is possible – Philippians 2:9-11

Involuntary – Romans 14:11-12

* + - * 1. When we give account, will we be able to say, I accepted your invitation, I voluntarily submitted to your will and live for you, your humble servant. (Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 10:9, John 14:23-24, Hebrews 10:26-27)

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