

Lesson 7: Submission

Lesson Focus

“The Principle of Submission”

Base Scripture

1 Peter 2:13-15; Proverbs 4:23; Ezekiel 36:26

Aim

This week you will study one of the keys to the Christian life. It is seldom understood and almost always rejected by those in the world, but it is something that you see perfectly in Jesus Christ, and it is something he wants to see consistently in us. It is the principle of submission.

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| Memory Verses: | 1 Peter 2:13-15 13 Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. |
| | James 4:7 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. |
| | Hebrews 13:17 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. |
| Goals: Student will learn: | Over the next twelve weeks, discover the tools necessary to effectively use God’s Word to equip us in becoming a disciple maker. Introduction to the Disciple Making Commission and begin the Journey. |

DAILY ACTIVITIES: For the Week

Introduction

'Submission' is a poignant concept. It is not something we do easily. It cuts across our pride. It offends our ego. We would usually far rather not be submissive. The offensiveness of submission is particularly acute for those who have historically been the targets of demands for submission. But the principle of submission pervades the whole New Testament and applies to all who believe in Jesus Christ – regardless of who they are and what social roles they fill. The biblical principle of submission reflects the humility and self-denial exemplified by Jesus Christ, and the obedience to Christ commanded of all believers. It is the opposite of the ego-centric, self-promoting independence and pride that was our human downfall in Genesis Chapter 3. The submissive person, recognizing the biblical priority of the other, puts aside their own rights [whether real or perceived] in order to achieve the well-being of the other. This principle of submission, of prioritizing the other, applies at both ends of any 'authority' structure – to both husbands and wives, to both parents and children, to both masters and slaves.

Wednesday Various Situations

1. On the first day of our study on this topic we want to look at the different places in Scripture where submission is called for. Look up the following scriptures and list those to whom we are to be submissive.

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| a.) James 4:7 | _____ | _____ |
| b.) I Peter 2:13-18 | _____ | _____ |
| c.) I Peter 3:1-5 | _____ | _____ |
| d.) Ephesians 5:21 | _____ | _____ |
| e.) Hebrews 13:17 | _____ | _____ |
| f.) I Peter 5:5 | _____ | _____ |

2. Why are there sometimes problem with having a submissive attitude in our personal relationships?
3. How does being submissive fit with what you know about the message of Jesus?

Thursday Submission to Authority

1. As you study the biblical concept of submission, one of the most important things to learn is that God wants us to have a submissive attitude. He does not want us to submit with resentment, resignation, or bitterness. He does not want our submission to be legalistic. He wants it to come from the heart because of our trust in him, because of our confidence that he honors our submission.
2. Read **Philippians 2:5-9**.
3. Describe how submissiveness was apparent in the life of Jesus?
4. In view of what we see in Jesus, which Christians should be submissive?
5. Ultimately, to whom are we to be submissive? Read **James 4:7-8**.

Friday The Main reason for Growth

1. One of the main things that all Christians need to be concerned about is their own personal spiritual growth.
2. Why is submission such an important attitude to have in order for growth to take place? What will happen to the person who is unsubmitive?
3. Read Luke 2:51-52. Then go to Hebrews 5:7-9. How did Jesus learn what he learned?
4. What are some things that you are sure that God wants you to be learning right now, and how will a submissive attitude toward others help you to learn these things?

Saturday **"For the Lord's Benefit"**

1. Read I Peter 2:13 and then comment on each of the following phrases in that verse:
 - a.) "How do you submit yourselves?"
 - b.) "What is for the Lord's benefit?"
 - c.) "Why do you believe it's important that we submit to every power instituted among men?"
2. Is the following statement **true or false**? "Whenever we don't have a submissive attitude, it is not for the Lord's sake but for our sake." Explain your answer.
3. How can submissiveness be viewed as both a weakness and strength? How does it fit with Scripture?

Sunday **Love, Leadership & Submission**

1. What does Hebrews 13:17 say about your responsibility to these leaders.
2. How could you show your leaders that you have a submissive attitude toward their leadership and that you want to make their work a joy and a burden?
3. True or False- We have to agree with everything a leader does before we can submit to him and obey him?

Monday **When We Must Not Submit**

1. As we look at submission we must recognize that there will be times when we cannot specifically submit to people in what they are asking us because to do so would be to be unsubmitive to God. Therefore, there are times when a Christian cannot submit. Turn to Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:27-30. Why did the early Christians not submit to the government in this instance?
2. Before we refuse to be submissive in any situation there are three important questions, we need to take in consideration:
 - a.) Do I really want to be submissive to and have a submissive attitude or am I looking for an excuse to be independent and rebellious?
 - b.) Is this really a violation of God's will or a violation of my strongly held tastes and preferences?
 - c.) Am I not wanting to submit because of the principle involved or some person involved? (We should never decide not to submit to someone just because we have a negative personal feeling toward them.)
3. How could you refuse to submit to some particular-thing, but still maintain a submissive attitude toward the person? Give an Example of this non-submission to someone while maintaining a submissive attitude.

Tuesday **Submission as a Blessing**

1. After studying submission now for six days you should have a better picture of what true submission means, read Philippians 2:9-11 to see the results of submission.
2. How did God bless the submission of Jesus Christ and how will he bless our submission?
3. What are some specific ways that Christians will be richly blessed throughout the development of a submissive heart and attitude?