



Submission

Submission is one of the most opposed and abused subjects yet if biblically understood and lived out, it could release the power of God to flow in our lives like never before.

Submission is not a curse word. I do know that submission has had some negative connotation to it over the years because it has been abused. But we should not neglect the power in submission and its importance. Those who refuse to submit have no clue what power submission could release. If we don't submit, we won't go up. We will stay down. In the Kingdom of God, the way up is the way down!

When our knees hit the ground through submission, we touch the sky. If you want to get what you want, one of the key steps in that direction is submission. Those who submit are truly God-dependent. A refusal to submit to authority and leadership in place whether it be a husband, or an employer is nothing but pride.

The devil flees from those who humble themselves and are submitted to God (James 4:6-7). If the devil is still lingering around, check your submission life! A lack of submission is a lack of victory and is inroad of the devil. A company can't succeed without a chain of command. An army can't go to war without a chain of command.

The blessing of God is like water. It flows to the lowest-lying levels. As we submit to authority and leadership, we position ourselves in a lower position and the blessing of God flows towards.

Submission is God's hearts, not the devil's. Jesus was the best example of submission. He submitted and obeyed the Father.

- i) Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.
- ii) Jesus gave the very best example of submission and because He was submitted and humble,

Philippians 2:5-10 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no

reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

One of the reasons we do not submit is because we are not trusting God. Submission in the New covenant comes down to trusting and putting our faith in God rather than self.

Areas of submission in scriptures are:

- a) Submission to God (Ephesians 5:24; James 4:7)
- b) Submission to civil or governmental authority (Romans 13:1-7)
- c) Submission to the church or religious authority (Hebrews 13:17)
- d) Wives are to submit to husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18)
- e) Children are to submit to their parents (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20)
- f) Slaves are to submit to masters or employees submit to employers (1 Peter 2:18)
- g) Younger to Elder (1 Peter 5:5)
- h) We are all supposed to submit to each other in love (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5).

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- a) The word “submit” simply means to “Arrange oneself under” (Strong’s Concordance) the authority of another. Submission means to yield or surrender to the will, opinion, idea, and authority of another. It comes from a Greek word which means to “arrange oneself under.”
 - i) Submission is truly put to test when we do not agree. Until then, submission is quite easy.
- b) Two keys to understanding submission lest it is abused.
 - i) Submission is a voluntary act—a choice.
 - No one should demand someone to submit.
 - If believing in the Lord Jesus is voluntary, everything else follows the same pattern.
 - Forcing one to comply is not having them submit because submission is more of a heart attitude than an action.

- ii) Submission is not synonymous with obedience as some have thought. We are not to obey any ungodly command, but we can submit to authority and leadership yet disobey their ungodly command. What shows that we are submitted even though we have not done the ungodly request is our attitude. A submitted attitude does not revile, criticize, revolt, nor a rebellious attitude.
- Acts 4:18-19 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.
 - Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
 - 1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:
- In these verses, Peter writes and tells us to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake. I do not believe he was telling us to obey every ordinance of man. He had previously in Acts 4:18-19 and Acts 5:29 made it clear that we ought to obey God rather than man.
- The answer is that in one in 1 Peter 2:13-15, he is referring to submission while in Acts 4:18-19 and Acts 5:29, he was talking about not doing or obeying any command that is contrary to the Word. Again, obedience and submission are not synonymous.
- c) You are not the boss, 100% of the time. Sometimes you are submitting, sometimes you are in submission.
- i) We need to be ready to submit to others wherever we go because we are not in authority all the time.
- d) Submission is more of an attitude than an action. We can submit to every ordinance of man, while we disobey any of those ungodly commands.
- e) Notice that it is for the Lord's sake. As we submit ourselves, let's do it as unto the Lord, for His sake and glory.

- i) There is a supernatural strength that is released on the inside of us when we choose to do things unto the Lord.
- f) Types of submission in Scripture:
 - i) Positional submission: This is when we submit to someone in authority and leadership over us.
 - Bosses
 - Husband
 - Police, Government, and authorities (Romans 13).
 - ii) Functional/ professional/ expertise submission: This is when we submit to one who has knowledge, experience, and expertise in an area even if we are ultimately in charge or in authority over them.
 - Many times, there is one with wisdom in a certain area due to their experience, profession, training, and expertise. It is appropriate for us to submit to that wisdom they have that we do not have.
- g) Understanding these two types of submissions will mean that it is not one-sided.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Some women will fight submission tooth and nail one of the reasons being that and it is mainly because it has been abused in the past but also because of the so-called feminist women rights movement which has to a large degree demeaned the value of a man in the home.

This has taught and encouraged as many women that would listen to rebel and not submit to their husbands because it is considered inferior.

Then, this has led to an abandoned home (1 Timothy 5:14) in the pursuit of the so-called "American dream."

Such people have no clue how powerful submission is. Submission is a key to godly blessings flowing in our lives. Those who aren't submissive but rebellious to authority will miss out on God's best for them. Promotion doesn't come to the rebellious but the submissive.

- a) Submission means to yield or surrender to the will and authority of another. It comes from a Greek word which means to "arrange oneself under."

- b) This verse is referring to positional submission. We can remove “wives” and insert employees to bosses or citizens to police and so forth.
- c) The previous verse mentioned that we are submit to one another—in other words, a boss to accountant or pastor to worship leader, to husband to wife and wife to husband, a husband should submit to the wife if she is a lawyer and he is not.
 - i) If a wife has some expertise or knowledge in an area where the husband ought to be willing to submit to her.
 - ii) This is would be what I have called Functional/ professional/ expertise submission.
- d) Because the husband is submitted to the wife under functional or professional submission, this does not remove, usurp nor override the positional submission that this verse (Ephesians 5:22) brings out on the wife's part to her husband in their marriage relationship.
 - i) This may come off harsh, but it is not my intent to be harsh but rather to share biblical truths.
 - ii) A gay couple that is in a so-called “Marriage” should not be applying nor invoking these biblical principles because they are for a husband (man) and wife (woman) have submission in line with these guidelines. They are both females. There is not a husband nor wife.
- f) This verse is not teaching the submission of women to men. This is what religion has taught in the past. No woman is called to be in submission to just any man—but her husband only.
 - i) It is one that is from wives to their own husbands. This is specifically between the wife and the husband, not submitting to men in general.
- g) “as unto the Lord.”
 - i) In the same way, wives submit to the Lord, they are to do the same to their own husbands or as is fit because husbands can sin, yet the Lord cannot sin.
 - ii) If a husband is asking a wife to do something that is not fitting of a Christian believer that is ungodly, she must not obey but submit in attitude and heart. There is a difference!
 - iii) We should never disobey God and His word in order to obey man.

- Peter

- Acts 4:18-19 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.
- Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

- a) The word “head” is referring to leadership and authority.
 - i) The husband is the authority over the wife in the same way Christ is head, leader, and authority over the church.
 - ii) Note: With leadership and authority comes responsibility.
- b) Wherever you have two heads, you have a monster. Where there are two or more people, a head has to be clearly identified and established lest there be disunity, confusion, and strife.
 - i) Headship is designed for unity and order. A lack of a head causes disunity.
- c) Headship is true in all other aspects of life. There is always a head—leadership or authority almost everywhere. It is not prideful to be the head. At workplaces, we all have bosses in many cases, and we submit to them—no problem (mainly for a fear of being fired) but we tend to resist the husband-wife submission possibly because there is no repercussion. We should follow God’s instructions for submission regardless of the consequences.
- f) Headship or leadership has been abused by some to say the woman is spiritually under the husband. This is not what this verse is saying. This verse is speaking in physical matters.
 - i) He is a physical head, not a spiritual head.
 - ii) Spiritually speaking in terms of our position in Christ, the wife is equal to the husband. She is a king and priest as the husband is in Christ.
 - iii) The husband is not a spiritual head over the wife. She has direct access through her direct relationship with God. Jesus is the spiritual head.

- h) Man is a savior of the wife in the physical matters or sense, not spiritual sense. He is to lead, provide, defend, and protect her.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

- a) In the same way, the church is subject or submitted unto Christ, the wife ought to be subject (submitted) to her husband.
 - i) This comparison is a huge one. We should not take submission lightly.
- b) “Everything” has to be qualified by whatever has to be God’s will.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

- a) Many have said that for wives to submit to their husbands, the husband must love them first.
 - i) Why did Paul ask the wives to submit (Ephesians 5:22) before he asked the husbands to love their wives? I do not think this is an overstretch. Submission precedes love.
 - ii) I believe that when a wife chooses to submit to the husband, the husband will love her and that is why the order is in the way it is.
- b) A husband cannot love the wife in his own strength. He has to be depended on the Lord to help him love his wife.
- c) Notice that a woman was asked to submit which is not natural for her. A wife naturally loves. For her to submit, she will have to be dependent on the Lord. On the other side, a man naturally can submit but does not love. He has to be dependent on the Lord to be able to do love.
- d) A husband should love his wife to the point of willing to lay down his life for her.

The wife is commanded to submit to the husband and the husband is commanded to love the wife. These commands went together and if someone wants to discard submission, they should equally discard the requirement of the man to love the wife or else that would be pure hypocrisy. We all have a responsibility, a different responsibility.