

WEEK SEVEN

SUBMISSION

*Submit to one another
out of reverence for Christ
-Ephesians 5:21*

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.

Day 43-Different 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.
 - a.) James 4:7
 - b.) 1 Peter 2:13-18
 - c.) 1 Peter 3:1-5
 - d.) Ephesians 5:21
 - e.) Hebrews 13:17
 - f.) 1 Peter 5:5
2. Now, to the right of each of these categories that you have written down, write the name of someone to whom you should be, in submission.
3. What are some of the major problems that you have with having a submissive attitude in these relationships?
4. Why does being submissive fit with what you know about the message of Jesus?

Day 44 – A Matter of Attitude _____

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 submission.
2. Submissiveness was an attitude found in Jesus. Read about it in Philippians 2:5-9. How do we see submissiveness in Jesus?
3. Again read about Jesus' submissive attitude in 1 Peter 2:13-21 (note particularly the first part of v. 13, the first part of v. 18, and v. 21).
4. Once we realize that Jesus Christ was the perfect model of submissiveness, we realize that submissiveness does not mean certain things. It does not mean: (a) lack of conviction, (b) silence, (c) violating your conscience, (d) weakness, (e) inferiority.
Instead submissiveness, as we see it in Jesus, does mean: (a) surrender of self-interest, (b) yielding of personal rights in order to benefit others, and (c) trusting God.
Some people think to submit means to do nothing, but we see in Jesus' life that submission meant trusting God and that is *hardly* "nothing:"
5. In view of what we see in Jesus, which Christians should be submissive?
6. Ultimately, to whom are we to be submissive? Read James 4:7-8.

Day 45 - Key to Growth _____

1. One of the things that all Christians need to be concerned about is their own personal spiritual growth. 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?
2. Read Luke 2:51-52. Then go to Hebrews 5:7-9. How did Jesus learn what he learned?

3. 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?
4. Do you feel like you have a rebellious or unsubmitive attitude about anything in your life at the present time? The tenor of God's Word would strongly encourage you to open all that up to someone so you can more quickly deal with it and put it behind you. A rebellious attitude will destroy spiritual growth.

Day 46 - "For the Lord's Sake" _____

1. Read 1 Peter 2:13 and then comment on each of the following phrases in that verse:
 - a.) "submit yourselves"
 - b.) "for the Lord's sake"
 - c.) "to every authority 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. Think of some times in your life when you were not submissive. How was your unsubmitiveness "for your sake" and not "for the Lord's sake"?
4. A man claiming to be a Christian once made this statement: "I submit to Jesus Christ and I submit to God, but any submission to men is way down the list, and I mean way down on the list." What do you think of his attitude? How does it fit with Scripture?

Day 47 - Relationship with Leaders _____

1. In the Body of Christ God has placed certain men over you. First there are *elders* (*overseers*) in the body (see Acts 20:17; 28-3 1; 1 Peter 5:1-4) and then there are others who are over you because of special responsibilities they may have been given in the fellowship. Look at what Hebrews 13:17 says about your responsibility to

these Christians.

2. Do you know the names of the elders and other leaders in the congregation where you are? Have you reached out to them in any way since becoming a Christian? How could you show them that you have a submissive attitude toward their leadership and that you want to make their work a joy and not a burden?
3. Does this passage say we have to agree with everything a leader does before we can submit to him and obey him?
4. Make sure your relationships with all your leaders are good ones. If there is ever any anger or resentment or hurt in you toward any of them, don't put off sitting down with that leader and opening up your heart. What would happen in a congregation if this did not happen?

Day 48 - 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 ask ourselves:
 - 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? Example: A Christian wife is asked by her non-Christian husband to lie for him to a business partner. How can she refuse that but still maintain a submissive attitude toward her husband?

Day 49-The Blessings of Submission _____

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

*Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).*