



**SUBMISSION -- IT'S A
GLORIOUS CONCEPT!**

**(SLIDE #1) SUBMISSION -- IT'S A
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Introduction:

- A. **(Slide #2)** “Submission” -- That Has Become A “Lightning Rod” Word And Concept In The Culture Of The 21st Century. It Evokes All Kinds Of Negative Reactions!

- B. This Is Particularly True In Religion And In The Home.

- C. What IS “Submission?” Examine Its Underlying Traits:
 - 1. Respect -- recognition of the position and authority of another over us.

 - 2. Humility.
 - a. I Pet. 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,”
 - b. We humble ourselves to the authority of another.

 - 3. Obedience (or acquiescence) -- Obedience to authority and rules; acquiescence to people even when you disagree.

- D. Question: How SHOULD We React To “Submission?”

- E. Are YOU Submissive?
 - 1. Really examine your heart today!

 - 2. If you say, “I don’t submit to anyone!” --
 - a. Maybe you should re-examine yourself (Do you pay taxes? Do you get permits to add on to your house or to build a new house?)
 - b. If you refuse to submit to anyone, you have a self-centered, evil heart!

- I. **(Slide #3) Submission -- The Heart Of Jesus!**
 - A. His Heart And His Actions Exhibited Submission To God, The Father And To The Will Of Heaven!

1. He was submissive to the will of His Father as a 12 year old boy! Lk. 2:41-52
 2. He was submissive to the will of His Father when He was baptized. Mt. 3:13-15
 3. He was submissive to the will of His Father in what He taught!
 - a. Jn. 5:30 “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”
 - b. John 12:49 “For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”
 4. He was submissive to the will of His Father in His suffering, rejection, scourging, and Crucifixion! And that was NOT easy; in fact, it was downright terrifying and demanding!
- B. Heb. 5:5-9 “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’* ⁶As He also says in another *place: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’*; ⁷who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸though He was a Son, *yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.* ⁹And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”
1. He was submissive.
 2. In his submission, He learned obedience -- its expectations, its demands, and its extent!
 3. Sometimes submission can bring great burden, pain, and heartache.
 4. Ah, but His submission prepared Him to be “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”
- C. Submission Can Be HARD; We May Long For Its Requirements To Be Different -- You See This As Jesus Prayed In The Garden Of Gethsemane!
1. Mt. 26:39 “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will.*’”
 2. Mt. 26:42 “Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.’”

- D. Submissive Jesus Calls Upon Us To Imitate Him By Being Submissive In Our Lives.

II. (Slide #4) Submission To The Godhead!

- A. (Slide #5) Submission To God Is A Fundamental Principle Of Christianity!
 - 1. Js. 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
 - a. We are to submit to Him -- respect His Being, His Authority, His Will, and obey Him!
 - b. That demands resistance to the Devil, to temptation, and to sin!
 - 2. As Paul gives guidance for the home, he reminds Christians that submission is not a foreign concept; we understand it in Christianity and in the Church! Eph. 5:22-24 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**.²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, **just as the church is subject to Christ**, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in everything.”
- B. Why Is Submission To God Something That We Could Find Easy Or Uncomplicated?
 - 1. Because of Their AMAZING LOVE for us!
 - 2. Because They always want the BEST for us!
 - 3. Because They constantly help us!
 - 4. Because They want the best for us NOW AND IN ETERNITY!
- C. The Call Of Submission To God:
 - 1. Ps.40:8 “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart.”
 - 2. Mt. 6:10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.”
- D. Submission Is Not Obeying When I LIKE What They Command And Refusing To Obey When I Do NOT Like It Or Understand It!
 - 1. It is NOT “I Surrender SOME!”
 - 2. “All To Jesus I Surrender!”

3. It is obedience!

III. (Slide #6) Submission To Elders!

A. God Ordained Elders To Oversee The Work Of A Congregation.

B. Scripture Reveals That Authority:

1. **Ac. 20:28** “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
 - a. “Bishops”
 1. This is the Greek word “*episkopou*”
 2. “episkopous”
 - b. “See that things done by others are done rightly.”
 - c. “Guardians;” “Superintendents”
 - d. “Exercise Oversight”
2. **I Ti. 3:4,5** “one who **rules his own house well**, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to **rule his own house**, how will he **take care of the church of God?**);”
 - a. “Rule”
 1. This is the Greek word “*proistavmenon*”, “*proistamenon*)
 2. Superintend
 3. Over
 4. Preside over
 5. Be a guardian
 - b. He superintends over his house and his children and he superintends the Church of God.
3. **I Thess. 5:12,13** “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and **are over you in the Lord and** admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”
 - a. “Over You In The Lord”
 - b. This is the same Greek root word as in I Timothy 3:4,5.
 - c. It is the Greek word “*proistamevnou*” “*proistamenous*”.
 - d. It means “to superintend”, “to preside over.”
4. **I Timothy 5:17** “Let the elders who **rule well** be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”
 - a. “Rule well”
 - b. This is the same Greek root word as used above.
 - c. Here is it a perfect tense participle “*proestw`te*” “*proestootes*”.
 - d. It means “to superintend”, “to preside over.”

5. **Hebrews 13:17** “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”
 - a. Elders “rule over you.”
 - b. Members are to:
 1. “Obey”
 - a. This is the Greek present tense verb “peivquesqe” “peithesthe”.
 - b. It means to “obey”.
 - c. It is in the middle voice suggesting that members must make the choice to be obedient.
 - d. This is the same word used in Js. 3:3. Bits are put in horses’ mouths so they will “obey” us.
 2. “Be submissive”
 - a. This is the Greek word “uJpeivkete” “hupeikete”.
 - b. Members are to submit themselves to elders.
 - c. Elders “watch out for your souls.”
 - d. They must give an answer to account for your soul.
 - e. Members are to assist the elders to do their job with joy, not with groaning! That would be profitless to you.

6. **I Peter 5:1-4** “The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers, not by compulsion but willingly**, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **nor as being lords over those entrusted to you**, but **being examples to the flock**; and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”
 - a. Elders are “overseers.”
 1. “Guardians;” “Superintendents”
 2. “Exercise Oversight”
 - b. “Not by compulsion but willingly”
 1. They are not forced to be elders.
 2. They chose to become elders: voluntarily, willingly.
 - c. “Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you”
 1. Not for the desire to “exercise lordship over” the members.
 2. Not domineering over.
 3. Elders are not to be dictatorial, dogmatic tyrants.
 4. This is NOT authoritarianism; it is loving oversight.
 - d. Elders are “examples to the flock.”
 1. This is a continual action.
 2. They show a pattern of Christian commitment to God, devotion to the Truth and the Church, and to holy living!
 - e. “Chief Shepherd”
 1. They seek to imitate Christ as a Shepherd.
 2. They study His life and seek to imitate Him!

- C. Elders Have NO Authority To Make New Laws; They Have NO RIGHT To Alter God's Authority!!!! They Only Have Authority In Expedient Matters -- Seeing That God's Laws Are Respected And Carried Out In The Best Ways!

IV. (Slide #7) Submission To Authorities!

A. Scriptures:

1. Tit. 3:1 "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."
2. I Pet. 2:13,14 "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good."
3. Rom. 13:1-7 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

- B. Christians Are Charged To Be Submissive To Whatever Ruler In Whatever Type Of Government They Live.

- C. (Slide #8) That Involves Respect For And Obedience To Laws That We May Not Like -- Taxes, Speed Limits, Etc.

V. (Slide #9) Submission To Your Mate!

A. Wives To Husbands.

1. Eph. 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”
2. Eph. 5:24 “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.”
3. What makes this submission easy? A humble, respectful husband.
 - a. Eph. 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”
 - b. Eph. 5:28,29 “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.”
 - c. Eph. 5:33 “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.”
 - d. It should be easy to submit to Christ -- NO ONE has treated us like He has; NO ONE has done for us what He has; NO ONE has made available for us in the future what HE has!

B. Husbands To Wives.

1. Eph. 5:21 “submitting to one another in the fear of God.”
2. This passages does not remove roles of authority.
3. Rather, it suggests that even those in authority understand they need to lovingly serve those who may be submissive to them! It just seems to imitate Christ!
 - a. A husband would assist his wife with her burdens and cares.
 - b. A parent could assist his child with their heartaches, burdens, and hurts.
 - c. An elder can assist a member who is struggling.

C. Oh How Different This Is From The Worldly Perspective That Cries: “Stand Up For Yourself!” Christ’s Teaching Is: “Submit To One Another!”

VI. (Slide #10) Submission To Parents (Fathers)!

- A. Eph. 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²*‘Honor your father and mother,’* which is the first commandment with promise: ³*‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’*”

- B. Children Are To Respect The Authority Of Their Parents And Be Obedient To Them!

VII.(Slide #11) Submission To Those Older Than You.

- A. I Pet. 5:5 “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for *‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’*”

- B. Those Who Are Younger Are Commanded to Respect And Be Submissive To Those Who Are Older!

- C. Some Cultures Do Well With This Idea; Some Americans Do; Many See Older People As Just Impositions To Be Ignored Or Pushed Away!

VIII.(Slide #12) Those Who Learn And Practice Submission Have The Heart And Mind Of Christ!

- A. God Has Called You And Me To Learn And Practice Submission!

- B. They Submissive Are People After His Own Heart!
 - 1. Mt. 12:48-50 “But He answered and said to the one who told Him, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ ⁴⁹And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

 - 2. I Jn. 2:17 “And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

IX. (Slide #13) Understanding Submission:

A. What Submission Does NOT Do:

1. Submission Does Not Demand Understanding Everything Before You Obey!
 - a. Noah!
 1. God determined to destroy the world; He would save righteous Noah and his family.
 2. He told Noah:
 - a. "It's going to rain!" (Noah, could have asked, "What it THAT?")
 - b. "There's going to be a worldwide flood!" (Noah, could have again asked, "What it THAT?")
 3. God told him to build an ark: "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*." Gen. 6:14-16
 4. Gen. 6:22 "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."
 - b. Job NEVER DID understand what was going on with all of his losses and heartaches. Yet he remained faithful!
 - c. You and I may not understand:
 1. WHY did God require immersion in water?
 2. Why did He require the shedding of the blood of animals? Why did He require the Blood of Christ?
 3. WHY unleavened bread and fruit of the vine?
 4. You can ask "WHY" a million times and never get an answer!
 5. The question is, "Do you BELIEVE? Trust? Obey?"
2. Submission Does Not Demand Agreement Upon Everything.
 - a. A wife is to submit to her husband.
 1. He may be an atheist; he may be a terrorist; he may be a denominationalist -- his wife can submit to him even though she does not agree with his religious values.
 2. She is still to submit.
 - b. Members are to submit to elders:
 1. Members will not always agree with decisions elders make.
 2. However, we are all still to be submissive.
 - c. One is to submit unless the person demands disobedience to GOD'S Will:
 1. When Peter and John were commanded by the Sanhedrin to not teach about Jesus, their reply was: "But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'" Ac. 5:29

2. Children are to obey unless their parents tell them to do something that violates God's Will!
3. Submission Does Not Mean That You Stop Thinking!
 - a. All of us are made intellectual beings by God.
 - b. We constantly ask:
 1. "How could I accomplish this task?"
 2. "How could it be done better?"
 3. "Would a different approach have better results?"
 - c. Submission does not mean that you cannot have an opinion!
4. Submission Does Not Mean That You Cannot Try To Change The Mind Of One To Whom You Submit.
 - a. That is true in all earthly relationships.
 1. Elders
 2. Civil authorities
 3. Mates
 4. Parents
 - b. Ah but attitude is SO important if you disagree or make suggestions! Still show respect!

B. What Submission DOES Do:

1. Submission elevates humility!
2. Submission removes selfishness.
3. Submission recognizes and respects authority and roles.
4. Submission Is made easy because of being shown love; it responds with love!
5. Submission Rooted in love removes rebellion and anger from the heart!
6. Submission does not necessarily mean inferiority!
7. Submission to Christ changes our hearts and lives!
 - a. "None Of Self, And All Of Thee!"
 1. The world teaches us to cry "All about self; don't worry about others!"
 2. As we transform our hearts, our cry changes:
 - a. "ALL of self, and NONE of Thee!"
 - b. "SOME of self, and SOME of Thee!"
 - c. "LESS of self, and MORE of Thee!"
 - d. "None Of Self, And All Of Thee!"

- b. "I Surrender All!"
 - 1. The world teaches us, "Do what YOU want to do!"
 - 2. **(Slide #14)** We may say, "I Surrender Some!"
 - 3. (▶) Jesus calls us to surrender all!

- 8. Submission is a GLORIOUS concept -- it gives us amazing blessings, joy, freedom, and confidence.
 - a. Ah but many accuse Christ, Christianity, and the Church of being a "Sect" or a "Cult!"
 - 1. By the way, that's nothing new!
 - 2. The opponents of Christ, the Church, and Christians did the same thing in the First Century! Ac. 24:5,14; 28:22
 - 3. The Church and Christianity ARE NOT a "cult!"
 - b. Submission to a CULT brings:
 - 1. Total control over you -- submission against your will!
 - 2. You have to accept what WE SAY BECAUSE WE SAY IT!
 - 3. You are not allowed to use your intelligence and intellect.
 - 4. They make decisions for you that are YOUR rightful decisions.
 - 5. It results in:
 - a. Anger
 - b. Resentment
 - c. Hate
 - d. Fear, Terror, and Cowering
 - e. Most get to the point that they LONG to run away; sadly, many fear for their lives if they choose to escape or to leave.
 - c. Submission to God brings:
 - 1. Personal choice -- submission by choice.
 - 2. You are URGED to use your mind -- THINK!!!!
 - 3. You are always encouraged to accept what God says because you see it in Scripture!
 - 4. You make decisions for yourself and your life -- obviously you are encouraged to make them using the principles that Christ has given us.
 - 5. It results in:
 - a. Freedom
 - b. Peace
 - c. Joy
 - d. Confidence
 - e. Growing Love!

(Slide #15) Conclusion:

- A. Seek To Really Understand And Appreciate “Submission.”

- B. See It For What It IS: “It Is A Glorious Concept!”

- C. Live By These Mottos:
 - 1. “All To Jesus I Surrender!”

 - 2. “Lord, Take Control!”