

Submission

First taught at the East Albertville church of Christ on June 14, 2023.

Submission

From the Greek word “**Hupotasso**,” meaning:

- 1. to arrange under, to subordinate**
 - 2. to subject, put in subjection**
 - 3. to subject one's self, obey**
 - 4. to submit to one's control**
 - 5. to yield to one's admonition or advice**
 - 6. to obey, be subject**
- A Greek military term meaning *“to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader.”*
 - In non-military use, it was *“a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”*

Submission

- Submission can be defined as:
 - *The act or action of someone who acknowledges legitimate authority and willingly arranges himself or herself accordingly. Submission is voluntary, never forced. It is responding to the divine order of things first in the heart and then in the life.*
- The Bible has a lot to say about submission. It's a principle, a theme, a command, and it is something that appears with regularity throughout the New Testament.

Women to Men

Women are to submit to men.

- **34** *Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. **35** And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church (**1 Cor. 14:34-35**).*
- **11** *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. **12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet (**1 Tim. 2:11-12, ESV**).*

Why?

- **13** *For Adam was formed first, then Eve; **14** and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor (**1 Tim. 2:13-14**).*

Wives to Husbands

Wives are to submit to Husbands.

- **3** *Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled (Titus 2:3-5, ESV).*

Wives to Husbands

What does this submissiveness look like?

- **22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. **24** Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything (Eph. 5:22-24).
- **18** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (Col. 3:18).

Husbands MUST:

- Love their wives and not be bitter toward them (Col. 3:19).
- But not just love their wives, but love their wives “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Eph. 5:25).

Husbands and Wives to Each Other

Though husbands have authority over their wives, husbands are to submit to their wives (and vice-versa) in one very important way:

- **3** *Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control (**1 Cor. 7:3-5**).*

Husbands and Wives to Each Other

Just as we give our bodies and submit our entire beings to God through service to him (**Rom. 12:1**), sex between a scripturally married husband and wife likewise exemplifies a giving of the body (submission) because . . .

- *4 The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife (**1 Cor. 7:4, ESV**).*

Children to Parents

Children are to submit to parents.

Why?

a) It pleases the Lord.

- **20** Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord (**Col. 3:20**).

b) It is right.

- **1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (**Eph. 6:1**).

To “Masters”

God requires us to submit to our “masters,” in sincerity of heart and complete service.

- **22** *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God (Col. 3:22).*
- **5** *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; **6** not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7** with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, **8** knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. **9** And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him (Eph. 6:5-9).*

To “Masters”

God requires us to submit to our “masters,” in sincerity of heart and complete service.

- Why?

- **1** *Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed (1 Tim. 6:1).*

To Governmental Leaders

We are to submit to civil authority.

- **13** Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, **14** or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good (**1 Pet. 2:13-14**).
- **7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed (**Rom. 13:7, ESV**).

To Governmental Leaders

- Since the governing authorities “*have been instituted by God*” (**Rom. 13:1, ESV**), we certainly owe our leaders respect and honor.
- Instead of speaking evil against those who rule over us, we must:
 - **1** *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (**1 Tim. 2:1-2**).

To Governmental Leaders

God will hold those who dishonor their rulers accountable on the day of Judgment.

- **9** The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, **10** and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, **11** whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. **12** But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption (**2 Pet. 2:9-12**).

The Church to Christ

Christians – collectively as the church – must submit to Christ.

- **15** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence (Col. 1:15-18).*
- **22** *He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22, ESV).*
- **23** *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything (Eph. 5:23-24).*

The Church to Christ

- Christians – collectively as the church – must submit to Christ.
- Why?
 - Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (**Eph. 5:25**).
 - **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 (**Acts 20:28**).*

Local Church Members to Elders

- Christians who make up a local church are required to submit to elders/shepherds/overseers/pastors.
- The very definition of “shepherd” (verb) implies authority, which means submission is needed by the ones who are being shepherded:
 - “Shepherd” can be defined as:
 - a) to guide or direct in a particular direction.
 - b) to give guidance to (someone), especially on spiritual matters.
 - c) to carefully manage.

Local Church Members to Elders

Christians who make up a local church are required to submit to elders/shepherds/overseers/pastors.

- **1** *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: **2** Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **3** nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; **4** and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. **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” (1 Pet. 5:1-5).*

Local Church Members to Elders

Christians who make up a local church are required to submit to elders/shepherds/overseers/pastors.

- *7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct . . . 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 (Heb. 13:7, 17).*

Elders “rule over” the local church and have been granted this authority by God. Therefore, we must humbly submit to our overseers, knowing they are caring and looking out for our most prized possession – our souls.

Christians to Fellow Christians

Christians must submit to each other.

- **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” **(1 Pet. 5:1-5)**.
- **17** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **20** giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another in the fear of God **(Eph. 5:7-21)**.

Christians to Fellow Christians

- Christians must submit to each other.
- Why?
 - a) Displays reverence for Christ:
 - *out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21b, ESV).*
 - b) Displays Godly love and humility:
 - *13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another (Gal. 5:13, ESV).*
 - *3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves (Phil. 2:3, ESV).*

All Mankind to God and Christ

- All of humanity – whether we conduct ourselves appropriately or not – is in subjection to God and Christ.
 - **3** *But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God (1 Cor. 11:3).*
- If we submit to the world and not to God, we become an enemy to Him.
 - **4** *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:4).*

All Mankind to God and Christ

Won't you submit to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ today? If you do, you can receive the wonderful promises found in **James 7:7-10**:

- **7** *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*