

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION TO THE LORD

There are many KEY Foundational aspects to the Christian life. In fact, it's practically impossible to pick one and say that it is the Foundation of Christianity.

For example:

Faith – Rom. 14:23; Heb. 11:6

Love – Gal. 5:14 – love is the fulfillment of the Lord

Holiness – Heb. 12:14 - without holiness no one will see the Lord

The Key Aspect of Christianity we want to examine to start off this series of Spiritual Discipline is SUBMISSION.

UNWILLFUL SUBMISSION – like slavery – being FORCED to submit your will to another. Some employees feel that way with their bosses at their jobs; some children feel that way with their parents, some wives feel that way with their husbands, some church members feel that way with their pastors I imagine... Some people KNOW they should submit to God, but they are unwilling. They don't really WANT to submit to God.

But then there is...WILLFUL SUBMISSION – this is a person willingly placing their will, goals, motivations, and desires under those of another person. Employees can be willingly submissive to bosses, children can be willingly submissive to parents, wives can be willingly submissive to husbands, believers can be willingly submissive to pastors, people can be willingly submissive to the Lord.

When we talk about the spiritual disciplines, Submission is essential as a Foundation because, to perform any of the acts that are called disciplines apart from having the right attitude becomes an exercise in futility – at least until the attitude is corrected. The act itself could have value apart from spiritual submissiveness simply because of the value of the act itself. For example, if I memorize Scripture with a bitter, un-submissive spirit I could still benefit from that in the years ahead.

SUBMISSION – willfully yielding to the Lord, authorities and other believers; laying down the terrible burden of needing to get our own way. To SUBMIT is to: yield to governance or authority; to subject oneself to a condition or a treatment; to permit oneself to be subjected to something; to defer or to consent to abide by the opinion or authority of another.

Break the word SUBMISSION into two parts – SUB... MISSION. SUB means under – so submission is putting yourself UNDER the MISSION of another. Are you living under God's Mission? Are you under others?

SUBMISSION IS SEEN IN:

- 1) Countenance
- 2) Attitude
- 3) Words (including their Intonation)
- 4) Body Language
- 5) Actions (deeds)
- 6) Haste of Response (to say we will do something, and then not do it??)

All of these demonstrations together clearly speak as to whether someone is in submission to the goals, desires, plans, intentions, and purposes of another.

These are generally true concerning both God and others. Outwardly we can do what people ask, and inwardly be in rebellion against them.

SUBMISSION TO OTHER BELIEVERS

“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Martin Luther

“Of all the spiritual disciplines, perhaps none has been more abused than the discipline of submission. Somehow the human species has an extraordinary knack for taking the best teaching and turning it in to the worst ends. Nothing can put people into bondage like religion, and nothing in religion has done more to destroy and manipulate people than a deficient teaching on submission.”

Every discipline has its corresponding freedom. What freedom corresponds to submission? It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.

Usually the best way to handle most matters of submission is to say nothing. So we see that submission is linked with the discipline of silence. There is the need for an all-encompassing spirit of grace beyond any kind of language or action which sets others and ourselves free.

In submission we are at last free to value our people. Their dreams and plans become important to us.

Do you know the liberation that comes from giving up your rights? It means you are set free from the seething anger and bitterness you feel when someone doesn't act toward you the way you think they should.

SUBMISSION PASSAGES

TO THE LORD

Mark 8:34 – If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me”

We prefer words like “self-actualization” and “self-fulfillment”. Jesus calls us self-denial without self-hatred.

Luke 6:46 – why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?

John 14:15 – if you love Me, keep My commandments

TO AUTHORITIES

Matt. 22:21 - Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's

Rom. 13:1-7 - The powers that be are ordained of God

TO OTHER BELIEVERS

Eph. 5:21 – submitting to one another in the fear of God

Phil. 2:2-4