



Pursuing The Spiritual Discipline of Submission

Week of April 18th, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *Optional Question - What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan last week concerning the discipline of Solitude and Silence?*
- *Intro Question - Why does the spiritual discipline of submission go against the prevailing views of the world? (could it be the misuse of submission in history or just the human pride of wanting to do our own thing, or a combination of both?)*

Read Bible Study Summary:

This study deals with the spiritual discipline of Submission. This is a discipline that has either been ignored or misused throughout history. However, when properly understood it has amazing value to our lives. Eight different values are found by looking at the example of Christ in His life in His exercise of submission to His earthly parents, to His Heavenly Father, to governing authorities, and to others.

Main Scripture (Because this is a topical message the points do not flow from just one main text. There are numerous supporting Scriptures, however, Ephesians 5:21 is a good overall passage to start with)

- *Scriptural Support - Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:18-19, 1 Peter 2:12-15, Hebrews 5:7, Luke 2:41-52, Ephesians 6:1-4, Matthew 17:24:27, Titus 3:1-2, Romans 13:1-8, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Acts 4:18-20, John 13:3-5, Mark 10:45, John 13:14-15, 1 Peter 3:1-2, 1 Peter 3:7, Philippians 2:3-5, 1 Peter 2:16-17, John 6:38, John 14:31, Luke 22:41-42, 1 Peter 2:21-25*

Let's look at the ways Jesus' examples of submission help us discover the value of submission.

1. Jesus submitted to His earthly parents! Luke 2:41-52

- The Value of Protection

When you submit to your parents you are submitting to their protection! You are under the umbrella of their protection. When you decide to do your own thing, you are walking out from under their umbrella of protection!

- **Ask Question** - Share an example from your life of how submitting to your parents gave you protection.
- **Ask Question** - How does submitting to the Leadership and Lordship of Jesus help us find protection? When we submit to our Heavenly Father, we are under the umbrella of His protection,
- **Read Scripture** - Proverbs 2:8
- **Ask Question** - Does this mean we won't ever face injury, sickness, or difficult times? Explain.
- **Read Scripture**- Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

- The Value of Guidance

- **Ask Question(s)** - Share an example from your life growing up how submitting to your parents gave you guidance.
- **Read Scripture** - Proverbs 1:8

2. Jesus submitted to governing authorities! Matthew 17:24-27

- Just because we disagree doesn't mean we don't have to respect and even submit to authority. In fact the Bible tells us a thing or two about those in authority.
 - **Read Scriptures**- Titus 3:1-2 and 1 Timothy 2 1-2
 - **Ask Question** - What value does submitting to governing authorities bring into our lives according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2?
- Sometimes we have to speak up in disagreement with the government. We need to vote our convictions.
 - **Ask Question(s)** - *Is there ever a time when submission to governing authorities goes too far? When?*
 - **Read Scripture**- Acts 4:18-20

3. Jesus submitted to others!

- Jesus, God in the flesh, washed the disciples feet. What an amazing act of humble submission.
 - **Ask Question(s)** - *What does Jesus' act of submission to those He was the leader of tell us about the value of humility and service?*
 - **Read Scripture**- John 13:14-15
- Submission in marriage is a very important element of a strong marriage and yet this concept is extremely misunderstood in our culture today. It could be simply ignorance of the truth concerning this discipline or it could be the fact that submission has often been misused for terrible reasons.
 - **Ask Question** - Would it make a difference in marriages if we were willing to serve one another like Jesus served His disciples? In what ways?
 - **Read Scriptures** - 1 Peter 3:1-2, 1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:25

- Submission to one another, like co-workers, neighbors and other members of the family of God brings the value of meeting the needs of others and the value of finding freedom into our lives in an amazing way.
 - **Read Scripture** - *Philippians 2:3-5*
 - **Ask Question** - *Why is it so important to follow Paul's advice in this passage?*
 - **Read Scripture** - *1 Peter 2:16-17*
 - **Ask Question** - *In what ways does submission to others help us find freedom? Use the following to aid in your discussion.*

Did you know that submission brings freedom. It brings freedom from having to always be right. It brings freedom from selfishness. Richard Foster wrote:

"What freedom corresponds to submission? It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way. The obsession to demand that things go the way we want them to go is one of the great evil bondages in human society today. People will spend weeks, months, even years in a perpetual stew because some little thing did not go as they wished. They will fuss and fume. They will get mad about it. They will act as if their very life hangs on the issue. They may even get an ulcer over it."

4. Jesus submitted to the will of The Father!

- Jesus' submission to the will of The Father is why we have, forgiveness, grace, mercy and hope for the future.
 - **Read Scriptures** - *John 6:38 , John 14:31 , Luke 22:41-42*
 - **Ask Question** - *What cup was He talking about?*
- The Value of Discovering God's Will - We have been called to submit to Christ as our Savior when we get saved, and then to submit to Christ as our Lord on a daily basis as we follow Him. When you submit to the will of the Lord through the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, you will find victory over temptation, freedom from bitterness and anger, because you will have the ability to forgive those who have wronged you while still acknowledging the hurt and the pain they caused you. That can only be done in humble submission to the Spirit of God! When you submit to the will of the Lord through the inspiration of The Holy Spirit, you will allow God to help you discover that His will is better than your own plans!
 - **Read Scripture** - *1 Peter 3:8-11*

Closing

- Don't forget the Men's Barbeque coming up on April 23rd. The Golf Tournament on May 15th, Baby Dedication on May 9th, and the ongoing Habitat for Humanity build.
- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.