

Biblical Submission

Understanding submission to authority with honor and respect.
It's an attitude of the heart.

Webster's definition of submission: A legal agreement to submit to the decision of arbitrators. An act of submitting something (as for consideration or inspection). Something submitted (such as a manuscript) The condition of being submissive, humble or compliant.

What biblical submission to authority is **NOT**. It is not beating someone into submission or using force or violence to defeat someone. It is **NOT** demanding someone to relent, concede, succumb or surrender to your authority because of your position or power. It is NOT about conquering, triumphing or oppressing another for the sake of empowerment.

Google's dictionary defines **biblical** submission as "the action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person." Submitting means putting others before yourself. It means not always doing what you want to do. It means putting God's desires above your own.

Thanks to attacks on the biblical idea of submission, Christians have come to have a false notion about what submission means to us today. Even the word submission makes many Christians uncomfortable and they have come to resist it because of previous oppression, abuse or because of a lack of understanding how submission to **authority in relationship is biblical and beneficial to all.**

Pastor Charles Spurgeon wrote, "A lack of submission is no new or rare fault in mankind. Ever since the fall it has been the root of ALL sin. From the moment when our mother Eve stretched out her hand to pluck the forbidden fruit and her husband joined her in setting up the human will against the divine, the sons of men have universally been guilty of a lack of conformity to the will of God. They choose their own way and will not submit their wills. They think their own thoughts and will not submit their understanding. They love earthly things and will not submit their affections. Man wants to be his own law and his own master."

Let's start at the Beginning: Gen.1.26-28, Then God said, "Let Us make an in Our image, according to Our likeness, let them have dominion (steward) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over all earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

We were designed to be God's image bearers in the earth. God's heart from the beginning was to give us everything and to build a dwelling place for Himself in the earth. We go on in chapter 2 to see God gives Adam a wife of his own body and a paradise to live in. God holds out His hands, gives them the world and gives them instruction to abide and obey in the center of His will. Obey me. Remember you were made in My own image and likeness. My Kingdom Dynamics says, "Man's ability to sustain his role as delegated ruler of Earth will rest in his continual obedience to God's rule as King of all. His power to reign in life will extend only as far as his faithfulness to obey God's law.

He opens His hands, gives us the world. Gives us the instructions to steward what He has given us. He does all of this to be in relationship with us His chosen people. We were from the beginning given the choice to willingly with honor and respect submit to His authority or NOT. Submission was then and still is today a voluntary yielding to the Lord or fall.....The temptation is for our focus to be on the serpent and not the choice of not honoring and respecting His authority. He paints a picture of a perfect example of obedience and respect for His authority from the very beginning and said "Abide right in here in my hands and have it ALL. They chose to open doors of rebellion which fractured the relationship with the Father and His children.

The Old Testament was all about obedience through the law.

And then there was Jesus: Jesus is born, lives and dies as a love offering from the Lord. He comes to restore the relationship that was fractured to our Creator/Father through **His total submission to go to the cross**. His life models for us the perfect example of what living a surrendered, submitted life is supposed to look like. Jesus sheds His blood for the restoration of our relationship with God. His death and resurrection offers us a way of escape from our own selfish desires, disrespect and disobedience for His Father's will for our lives. There is a washing away of sin through repentance and the greatest love story of all time is laid out before us. The New Testament teaches us what obedience and respect for authority should look like through the sacrifice of His one and only son. Why? Because the Father's heart has always been to give us His very best.

What does it mean for us today? Hebrews 12:9, “Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of Spirits and live).

The word of God is full of examples of the benefits and blessings that come when living a yielded life. Right in the center of His hands. It allows us to understand what honor and respect have to do with relationships and authority, or Not!!! The world does not encourage honor, respect or understand authority. Today we are presented in every fashion. Do your own thing. **(Jump right out of His hands)** Lie, cheat, manipulate, steal, resent authority, live out a life of selfish willful disobedience before your husband, wife, family and all others which can include your church, neighbors, employers, government etc. Humans have let morality wither away and everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes. Today we struggle in allowing anyone to speak into our lives and trust no one especially Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are often in danger of sacrificing our legacy of faith in the very One who gave us His all.

There are examples of submission through the whole word of God that provide for us a road map on how to live. There is an order of submission that is laid out before us. There is an umbrella, a covering, a protection from the storm that comes to a heart that is voluntarily yielded to the One holding the umbrella.

- + The umbrella closed offers nothing
- + The one holding the umbrella exercises the authority given it (open)
- + We choose to yield and receive its benefits or not....

Examples in the Word:

Pastors and Elders: 1Peter 5:5 1Tim. 5:17

Rulers: 1Peter 2:13-17, Rom 13:1-5, Eph. 6:5-9

Leaders and each other :Heb. 13:17, Peter 2:13-18, Eph. 5:21, 1Peter 3:1, 1Cor. 16:16, Col. 3:18-20

Husbands & Wives: Eph. 5:22-:28

Parents and Children: Ex. 20:12, Eph. 6:1-3, Prov. 1:8-9