MISSIO DEI FELLOWSHIP

A Submitted Life: Our Submission to God

Acts 26:1-14

Salvation • Providence • Submission • Lordship of Christ

INTRODUCTION

Kicking Against the Goads

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

The Goad

A tool used to move an animal in a necessary direction while the animal resists.

Paul's Former Life

Devoted to following God, yet living a life of deception—good efforts, carefully avoided sins, but a false way.

The Turning Point

Blinded by the glory of the risen Lord, Paul stopped kicking and resisting and became a true disciple.

RECAP

Jesus: Our Supreme Example of Submission

01 Eternally existed in the form of God, yet humbled Himself and took on flesh (Philippians 2).

02 In eternity past the Son submitted to the task of becoming man to die in our place.

03 Lived in humility of birth and growth—learning, growing, enduring a sin-filled world without sin.

04 Never bitter in humiliation; our High Priest who sympathizes with our with our weaknesses.

RECAP

Jesus: Our Supreme Example (cont.)

05 Spoke only what the Father wanted Him to say; did only what the Father gave Him to do.

06 Submitted to earthly authorities—even an unjust trial—because it was the Father's will.

07 Ultimate submission: took our sin upon Himself as both High Priest and Sacrifice.

08 In all of this He is our example for day-to-day decisions about how we how we will submit.

OUR SUBMISSION TO GOD

Two Essential Steps

01

Justification

The first step: submission of the the heart to God through faith in faith in Jesus Christ.

02

Sanctification

The ongoing step: learning to submit our everyday lives to the will of our Lord.

JUSTIFICATION

The Gracious Legal Act of God

God declares a sinner righteous in His sight.

NOT based on	Any inherent righteousness, works of obedience, or or merits of the sinner.
SOLELY based on	The perfect obedience and atoning death of Jesus Christ.
Imputed & Received	Christ's righteousness is imputed to the believer and received through faith alone.
Once-for-all	Instantaneous, complete, and irreversible. Establishes permanent right standing before God.

JUSTIFICATION

True Saving Faith Is Submission

Romans 3:24

"...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."

Romans 3:28

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

SANCTIFICATION

Submission Begins with God's Authority

The Bible teaches the supremacy of God over all things, seen or unseen. He is unseen. He is Creator—therefore everything else is subject to Him.

We breathe God-created air with God-created lungs.

Our minds plan, dream, and despair within a God-created brain.

Every atom is created and maintained by God; we are subject to His His natural laws.

SANCTIFICATION

The Great Lie of Independence

The great lie told to us is that we are somehow free and independent.

God's supreme authority first confronted us in salvation—when we realized that it is God's way or damnation. That truly Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And we submitted to it.

But it continues into our day-to-day living.

SANCTIFICATION

Under the Lordship of Christ

Submission means learning to bring every aspect of life under His lordship. The New Testament often calls this our “walk.”

1 Cor 7:17	“…as the Lord has assigned to each one… in this manner manner let him walk.”
Gal 5:16	“Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”
Eph 2:10	“Created in Christ Jesus for good works… so that we would walk in them.”

OUR WALK

Ephesians 4 — Walking Worthy of the Calling

v.1	Our life is to be a faithful reflection of the holy calling we have in Christ.
v.17	We are NOT to walk like the unbelieving world—it begins in the mind, then moves to lifestyle.
vv.20-21	Salvation is framed as discipleship. To live contrary to Jesus is to deny Him as Lord.
vv.22-24	Conduct is vitally related to thinking. We must lay aside former former conduct, not merely renew the mind.
vv.25-32	A series of lifestyle changes befitting those who have believed the gospel.

OUR WALK

Ephesians 5 — Imitate God & Put Away Darkness

Walk in Love

Imitate God (vv.1-2).

How? Walk in love.

How can I know I am doing that? “Just as Christ…”

Put Away

Activities that are not fitting (vv.3-6).

Our walk is the mirror that reveals our submission.

A submitted life always seeks to please the Lord (v.10).

A SUBMITTED HEART

Resting upon the Goodness of God

Romans 8 — God is working all things together for good to those who belong to who belong to Christ.

We have no reason and no right to interpret our situations as unfair or unrighteous acts from God.

God is no tyrant toward us. To grasp this requires that we constantly go back to the gospel and remember from what we were saved.

A SUBMITTED HEART

Remember What We Were

Slaves to Sin

It dominated us and sought only to only to bring us to eternal death. death.

Enemies of God

At war with Him in intention, thought, and deed.

Filthy Rags

Our best efforts rejected by our pure and holy Creator.

Yet He Came

Not because we sought Him, but but because of His rich kindness kindness and love toward His enemies.

A SUBMITTED HEART

Humility of Heart

We are creatures and can only comprehend a little truth.

01 The book of Job chronicles the battle to see the deep wisdom and and sovereignty of YHWH.

02 Our understanding is limited and imperfect. Emotions easily distort good judgment.

03 Wise is the one who sees we are not designed to operate independently of God.

04 With humility we acknowledge that God’s wisdom is greater and higher than ours.

A SUBMITTED HEART

Not Fatalism — Entrusting

Submission is not a surrendering to some arbitrary power of fatalism.

It is an entrusting of ourselves to the care and wisdom of God who loves us.

He is our Creator and Sustainer. He is also our Father, and we are His sons and daughters—ever precious in His sight.

CONCLUSION

Principles of a Submitted Life

01 **Rooted in the Heart**

Submission becomes an established disposition of the heart.

02 **Requires Readiness**

We are prepared to obey when duty requires it.

03 **Requires Constancy**

We remain attentive to God’s will throughout life.

04 **It Is Universal**

We must not reserve the right to disregard inconvenient commands. commands.

CONCLUSION

Principles of a Submitted Life (cont.)

05 **It Takes Courage**
Often the temptation is more related to how others will.

06 **Best Done Cheerfully**
Obeying cheerfully is always desirable in a child.

07 **Requires Acceptance**
Let Jesus in the garden be your guide: “Not my will but yours be yours be done.”

CONCLUSION

We Are Called to Live a Life of Faith

It is a heart aware that God is in the midst of all things unfolding around us and in us as He sovereignly directs all things through His providence.

When suffering and loss is the path we are on, we ought never to pretend pretend we do not feel the grief. But we must never allow the suffering or suffering or the grief to turn us against God and His ways.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next Week

Living a Submitted Life Toward One Another

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing the good news of Jesus Christ, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen