

Here we are looking forward to the beauty May brings: the flowers and green grass, planting gardens and planning summer activities. In all this busyness we very easily could lose sight of our true calling, searching for and pursuing God's will. But we see Him brought to life in the sights and sounds of nature and all of creation, and when we enjoy His creation, we glorify Him.

Last Sunday I suggested we look at the concept of submission, what it looks like and ways to put it into action. The following scriptures reveal to us that submission is a good thing; it's not evil as the world teaches us. These verses are wonderful guidelines to accomplish being a servant to our Heavenly Father:

Luke 14:27

²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

Carrying the persecution of the world for our faith in the Father is required by Jesus. Its burden is not meant to weigh us down, but instead to prove to the world we would rather be a slave to God than to the flesh.

Matthew 10:37-39

³⁷ "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it."

God is not asking us to give up our family and friends, but instead to serve them by serving God first. When we love as Jesus loves, we see them differently and eternally as He does. Our family prayer life changes. When we view our relationships with others through the eyes of the Creator we find the inner beauty of each individual.

This world and all the good things in it are meant to bring us joy and glory to God. Only the good is of God. The bad, dark things of this world are not of God, and the enemy desires to drag us into this darkness. This is the life we

are to give up. Who do we serve? The one whose passion is to destroy or the One who died to bring us life? Either choice requires submission.

When we lose our life for the sake of Jesus, His cause, we are submitting to God's will so that all mankind might be reconciled to God.

John 14:28

²⁸ "You heard Me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Jesus continued to speak to His disciples of old and to us today, reminding us of a truth and a promise: He was going away and will be back. We celebrate Jesus's resurrection and ascension to heaven and now we are waiting for His return. Waiting requires patience and faith. In our acts of submission, He provides all the spiritual gifts needed to obey Him and live our best life today.

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

To me this verse reminds me to love, but how?

Mark 12:30-31

³⁰ "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

If we love others as we love God—more than ourselves—this will be our ultimate gift of submission.

Your servant in Jesus,

Archie

Call to action:

What might submission to the Father, to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit look like? They are distinct and yet One.

For reflection on this, look up the following verses:

Ezekiel 34:30-31

Matthew 4:19

Galatians 5:16-17