



**Submission**  
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**The Crossing Church**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**

## **OPENING**

We've been studying a series in the New Testament book of 1 Peter where the Apostle is writing to believers scattered throughout the Mediterranean area because of persecution. In the past two weeks we have looked at **Hope** and **Identity** and now we learn about the third of five character traits we need to live in our current culture of persecution. This is a heart teaching: **Submission**.

## **SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>**

**1 Peter 2:13-19** *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.*

**Acts 5:29** Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings."

**1 Peter 2:21-24** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (Isaiah 53)

**1 Peter 3:1-2** Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

**1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

**1 Peter 3:10-12** Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace

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<sup>1</sup> The NIV translation unless otherwise indicated.

and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are *on the righteous* and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is *against those who do evil*.

### **OBSERVATION**

Peter says to submit to every human authority over us – unless a direct command contradicts a direct command of God! In Peter's day, Nero was the sadistic, crazy emperor of Rome. He had family members killed, murdered Christians in the most horrible ways imaginable, even set Rome on fire and accused Christians for doing it. Peter and Paul were both martyred by his authority.

**QUESTION: There were many very evil people in world history. Which ones can you name that you think deserve God's wrath? Why did you select them?**

There are several examples of believers refusing to obey authorities because their orders contradicted God's Word. One is found in **Acts 5:29** when they disobeyed the command to NOT preach in the name of Jesus. We don't get to decide whether we will obey or not – because by doing good we silence the ignorant talk of foolish people!

**QUESTION: In what situations do you typically find yourself responding to others in a submissive role? How does that make you feel?**

### **APPLICATION**

Submission and obedience and humility are all words we think of as expressions of weakness, but God values them as important human responses to His will. Peter provides four scenarios where the results of living out Biblical submission in our lives is amazing: **I) Government; II) The workplace; III) The role of wives; and IV) The role of husbands.** One result of submission is **1) It silences opposition.** Peter was writing to those who were mistreated and abused. They were slandered, accused of rebellion against Rome, atheism, incest, and being cannibals because of the communion elements. The natural response to this kind of persecution is to fight back. It's human. But Peter tells us that the way we respond to these accusations is by the way we live as Christians. When we lead good lives, do good deeds and give generously, we silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. We are to honor everyone, love the brotherhood, revere God, and love even a leader like Nero.

**QUESTION: How do you react to others who mock you because of your faith?**

**2) Submitting to the authority in our workplaces is commendable.** In Peter's day the relationship between slaves and masters was different from what we learn about America's history. It was not based on race or skin color, but on economics. In that culture slaves could be educated, own property, obtain their freedom or stay with masters who treated them well. But it was often inhumane, too. There are some big applications to be taken from slavery when it comes to our workplaces today. Sometimes our bosses haven't taken Human Resources training on how to be a great supervisor. If we choose to submit under the authority of such managers, it is commendable or a gift we bestow upon them. As Christians, we make such choices because we don't want to argue but instead to win people to Jesus by the example of our lives.

**QUESTION: What kind of managers have you worked for in your career? Which ones have most effectively related to their people?**

Peter speaks about submission in the marriage relationship: **3) Wives submitting to husbands may bring them to Christ.** When we willingly place ourselves under another's leadership, our lives silently speak the Gospel. This is not subservient or devalued behavior, but a model of purity

and reverence and Christ's love. **4) Husbands submitting to wives protects and honors them.** Husbands are to submit to their wives spiritually and intellectually, being considerate and respectful to them, honoring them and putting their desires above their own as equal partners in God's Kingdom.

**QUESTION: In what ways do you consistently submit to your spouse and family members? In what other ways would your family benefit if you would treat them with greater humility and selflessness?**

Submission increases our influence and opens the door to God. In David's case, he submitted to God's will in his struggle against King Saul and trusted that God would fight the battle for him - and God honored him with forty years of kingship for himself.

**QUESTION: In what ways did David submit to God when facing death at the hands of King Saul?** This is how we submit: **1) Speaking life.** Keeping our tongues from evil – refusing to slander or talk badly against others; **2) Doing good.** Working hard and letting our actions show submission; **3) Seeking peace.** This is where our hearts come in. Our goal is not to win an argument or a fight or a cultural war – it is to win people to Jesus and honor God with our lives.

**QUESTION: In what ways have you been obedient, submissive and humble before God in the past year? What difference has it made in your life?**

#### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, our prayer is that we will submit ourselves to Your will as You lead us in ministering to others' needs and souls. Help us to live selflessly and focus our renewed minds on Your presence which strengthens and encourages us to live Kingdom lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

#### **QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION: There were many very evil people in world history. Which ones can you name that you think deserve God's wrath? Why did you select them?**

**QUESTION: In what situations do you typically find yourself responding to others in a submissive role? How does that make you feel?**

**QUESTION: How do you react to others who mock you because of your faith?**

**QUESTION: What kind of managers have you worked for in your career? Which ones have most effectively related to their employees?**

**QUESTION: In what ways do you consistently submit to your spouse and family members? In what other ways would your family benefit if you would treat them with greater humility and selflessness?**

**QUESTION: In what ways did David submit to God when facing death at the hands of King Saul?**

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