

DEEPER

THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION



ACCOUNTABILITY

- Did you study the Bible every day this past week using the *R.E.A.P* method? If not, why not? If so, how did it impact your week? What did you learn?

INTRODUCTION

- Now that we are at the end of our series on spiritual disciplines, which ones have you started to regularly implement? How do you balance them?
- When we submit, all the spiritual disciplines work together as a single tool to help us grab onto Jesus' hand - for Him to lead us.

SERMON REVIEW

- Submission is one of the hardest disciplines because it has been abused.
- *What is submission not?* It's not just an action out of obligation, surrendering to a human or institution, or directly about hierarchy.
- Submission is about surrendering to God. It shows us how to interact with people and institutions, and it establishes a basis for productive and fruitful relationships.
- In the New Testament we see that the disciples had a problem with submission when they were arguing about who the greatest of them was.
- Jesus used that as a teaching moment later in Matthew 20:25-28, where He introduces a revolutionary concept about *servanthood* and *leadership*.
- We even see Jesus die on the cross in one of the most despicable ways of His time - death on the cross. And Jesus accepted it and humbled himself.
- What else do we learn about submission from Jesus?
 - It's the attitude that Jesus had to God the Father.
 - The humility that moves us to "treat others as more important than ourselves."
 - The recognition and honoring of others as someone above us - like a slave to a master.
- Paul knew that submission was a problem, which is why he addressed it every part of a family relationship as well as in a working relationship (Ephesians 6:9).
- It's not just one part of the relationship that needs to submit (i.e. only wives submitting to husbands) but both parts need to for a healthy and successful relationship.
- Can we only be concerned about our own interests or only about the interests of others? No! We have to be balanced. Submission is recognizing someone not just as an equal, but as the better equal.

DISCUSSION

- What is the difference between submission and obedience?
- Are there times where it's ok to disobey and not submit? Can you disobey but still submit? Name some examples.
- Read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3.
- Do you think they struggled with obedience and submission?
- What would you do in their situation?
- What makes submission difficult or uncomfortable in certain cases?
- What does submission look like in your life right now? If you are in leadership, are you in submission to those under you? If you are a parent, are you in submission to your kids? Ultimately, are you in submission to God?
- How can having a better understanding of submission lead us into a healthy balance of all the other spiritual disciplines?

CHALLENGE

- Review the spiritual disciplines we've discussed, and identify which ones need to play a more significant role in your life.

CLOSING PRAYER