

DON'T GO QUIET

WELCOME // online listeners //

Continuing in our Colossians series.

A look at Jesus ... all he is ... all he did for us ... and what it looks like to follow him.

He isn't just savior → King (everything subjected to him ... Eph 1)

B/C of this we don't just take his words as good advice.
They are authoritative words calling us to follow him.

Jesus isn't a "Do as I say, not as I do." kind of leader.
He went before us and walked in the way he calls us to walk. [life serves as example]

Last week we looked at how he is Lord of our Leading.
And today we are going to look at how he is Lord of our following.

It is important that we looked at the Leading before the Following.

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B/C the kind of leadership Jesus calls us to follow is radically different to the leadership all around us.

Leadership like Jesus serves sacrificially.

It doesn't use people to build themselves up.

It lays down its life to build people. [The Cross]

But Jesus didn't only come to show us how to lead.

He showed us what it looks like to follow.

Colossians 3:18 & 20

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Jesus Is Lord of Our Following

We see two pictures and two actions that describe following.

The first picture is marriage. And a wife submitting to her husband's leadership.

The second is the child-parent relationship. The child obeying their parents.

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So we have these two pictures:

- Wives submitting
- Children obeying

Now, if you are like me, the first obstacle to my accepting this and living this out is ...

There are abusive people.

Abusive husbands, and abusive parents.

What kind of God would demand submission and obedience in those cases?

And to be honest the church has confused matters by keying on select verses and ignoring the tensions found in the whole of the Bible.

We have the words of Jesus, and the apostle Paul that says a wife can't divorce her husband except for adultery.

This has been used in conjunction with this passage to force a wife to stay in an abusive situation.

But, that is not accounting for the whole of Scripture.

When we look at the life of David, we see him under an abusive authority.

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King Saul was throwing spears at him in petty jealousy. He is falsely accusing David ...

The abuse is physical, emotional, verbal.

And David had an ethic not to take revenge on the Lord's anointed King.

So we misunderstand that to mean Wives and Children need to submit and stay, regardless of abuse.

But God doesn't force David to stay.

In fact David rightfully flees from Saul to protect himself.

He doesn't lay a hand on Saul. Which means he doesn't seek revenge ... to hurt him and harm him in kind.

That would be violating that principle of touching God's anointed.

God sets leadership in place and he will take them out.

But David understood he didn't have to stay there, submitted to Saul's craziness.

Some of you need to hear that before you can hear anything else we are going to talk about with regards to submission and obedience.

God doesn't demand that.

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In fact the whole context of submission and obedience in the Bible assumes a relationship of love.

That is what we get when we look at Jesus' submission to the Father.

Submission and obedience exist because of love.

TRINITY → unbroken relationship of love (Father/Son/Spirit).
Jesus came and put flesh on this.

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”

In all of the Gospel accounts, Jesus' ministry starts after His baptism.

The Father looks down on His Son and delights in him.
Not performance-based delight ...

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He delights in WHO Jesus is ... not WHAT Jesus did.

I believe God's purpose in this was to show us what their relationship has always been.

The Trinity's love isn't response ... it's always initiation.

See Jesus got baptized B/C He loved the Father ... not to earn those words of love.

The Father spoke those words of love ... not in response to Jesus' baptism ... but b/c of His love.

This little baptism moment shows the connection between love and submission.

Love not only initiates, but it believes the best.

Submission and obedience exist where there is trust.

Jesus could initiate loving obedience, b/c he fully trusted in the Father's love.

Even before the Father went public with that statement. Jesus knew that love.

The Father simply affirmed it publicly for our benefit.

And this love and trust has always existed between Jesus and His Father.

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Which means ...

Submission wasn't introduced because of sin.

It predates sin.

And it will continue on into Eternity, after Jesus returns and sin is no more.

But until then, while sin is around ... submission is going to be hard.

Sin makes submission and obedience hard because it violates love and trust.

Sin not only corrupts leading; it also corrupts following.

Sin replaces God's love with counterfeit love.

See, we said "NO! to submitting to God." [Community of love].

We say "Yes! to submitting to no one but ourselves."

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It's no small deception that one of the great secular doctrines of today is "self-love".

It's the counterfeit love found in the counterfeit Trinity of "me-myself-and I".

Ultimately its loveless and trustless.

- It robs us of love [horizontal] & [vertical] & trust [h & v]

The soundtrack of our day is, "I did it my way!"

It's the celebration of an unsubmitted life.

And we sing it loud and proud in our solitary confinement.

But what is the other option?

Is it living to the soundtrack, "I did it your way!"

No one is buying that song.

That's for good reason too.

Not everyone's way is worth submitting to.

Lenin's marxism that slaughtered millions ... Hitler's genocide ...

Easy to see how they weren't worth submitting to.

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But what if your husband/parent/pastor is pushing you to violate your faith and your conscience?

How do you work out submission and obedience?

Helpful ...

Submission and obedience must never contradict submission and obedience to Jesus.

Colossians 3:18

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Notice the qualifying statement “as is fitting to the Lord” after giving the command for wives to submit to their husbands.

Which means ... not all submission is “fitting to the Lord.”

But how do we determine what is fitting?

John 5:19

19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

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See Jesus gives us the perfect example of submission.

It's not, "I did it my way" ... nor is it, "I did it your way (as in human leaders)."

It is, "We did it God's way."

Jesus was submitted to the Father.

And it wasn't blind submission.

He could **see** what the Father was doing and follow it.

Likewise, our submission shouldn't be blind.

We should be able to look to our leaders and **see** they are following Jesus. [not uninformed opinion ... Word+Spirit]

The essence of being a disciple is following an example.

That is why you can't follow Jesus on your own.

It HAS to be done in Community.

The Christian dynamic of leading/following is "follow me ... as I follow Christ."

Which means ...

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Every leader is a submitted follower; and every submitted follower is a leader.

Young people in the room. You don't wait until you graduate high school or start driving.

There is no age requirement for when this starts.

When you commit to following Jesus and submit to him you not only become a follower, but you become a leader.

**As you follow Jesus, you can look to others to say ...
"Follow me as I follow Christ."**

But you also are called to "Follow leaders as they follow Christ."

This takes intentionality on our part.

We have to make time in our lives to do this.

2 hours on Sunday morning isn't enough. [CGs ... beyond]

This requires sacrifice ... sometimes giving up good things for the best things.

**But just b/c it's hard doesn't mean we shouldn't.
[eg. exercise]**

Now I realize in our context its even a bit harder.

There are real time limitations if you are Marine/Navy/Coastie.

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Most likely you won't be here for more than 3 years.

But, Jesus also only did ministry 3 years.

Now, to be fair, his 3 years were fully devoted to that one purpose.

But the principle was that he was intentional with the abbreviated time.

It's tempting to remain uncommitted when you know your evac is not too far away.

But I want to challenge us.

We only got so much time in this life.

What are we going to devote it to?

We can live for things that will pass away.

Or we can live for eternity.

We can leverage our life to something greater than ourselves.

Something that will continue on long after we are gone.

Jesus' church, His kingdom, is a 2000 year legacy and counting, of disciples devoted to that cause ... "follow me, as I follow Christ."

The church stands today on the foundation of Christ, and on the generations of his saints who passed on the example of following Jesus.

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NOT A CHRISTIAN:

Jesus is calling you to follow him. To take your place in this incredible story of His church.

It won't be easy ...

It will mean giving up doing it your way ... to do it His way.

This doesn't start with you paying admission into Jesus University.

Actually, none of us earn our way into it.

Following Jesus starts with realizing we don't deserve to be a disciple.

This is given to us in grace.

Jesus paid the admission price to be his disciple by dying on the cross for your sin.

Following him today means trusting in him as Savior and Lord. Loving Him as Savior and Lord.

CHRISTIAN:

How is Jesus calling you to surrender?

Who are you following? Who is following you?

What is keeping you from following/leading others?

COMMUNION:

Enrollment into Jesus University isn't accessible by good grades, extracurriculars or endowments.

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He had to live a life we couldn't live, and die a death we couldn't die.

Communion reminds us of the privilege we have to follow Jesus.

It's all grace. [gift]