

GOD SPEAKS  
The Discipline of Submission  
Week 8 September 1, 2024  
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The purpose of the Disciplines is freedom.

### THE FREEDOM OF SUBMISSION

Submission is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.

*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. 1 Peter 2:18:*

In submission we are at last free to value other people.

When we are hurt and angry and we give up our right to get even, we forgive by giving the stick to God. In that moment we are free from having to exact the justice owed us and we trust God to take care of it in His time.

### DENY YOURSELF

*And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? Mark 8:34-36 NAS*

Jesus is leading us to the **Way of the Cross**.

Self-denial declares that we are of infinite worth and shows us how to realize it.

*And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 NAS*

### REVOLUTIONARY SUBMISSION AS TAUGHT BY JESUS

Leadership is found, He taught, in becoming a servant of all.

The foremost symbol of this radical servanthood is the cross.

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8 NIV*

Christ not only died a **“cross-death,”** He lived a **“cross-life.”**

### THE CROSS-LIFE:

The cross-life is the life of voluntary submission.

The cross-life is the life of freely accepted servanthood.

### NEW TESTAMENT SUBMISSION

*Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant. Philippians 2:4-7 NIV*

Paul gave personal moral responsibility to those who had no legal or moral status in their culture.

Then the Epistles turn to the culturally dominant partner in the relationship and call him to the cross-life.

### THE LIMITS OF SUBMISSION

The limits of the Discipline of Submission are at the points at which it becomes destructive.

*"We must obey God rather than human beings!" Acts 5:29 NIV*

The disciple refuses, not arrogantly, but in a spirit of meekness and submission.

### ACTS OF SUBMISSION

We submit to the Triune God

We submit to the Scriptures

We submit to our family

We submit to our neighbors

We submit to the believing community

We submit to the broken and needy in our society

We submit to the world

### SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Spiritual authority is God-ordained and God-sustained.

Spiritual authority is marked by both compassion and power.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 NIV*