

Submit to One Another

I. Introduction

- A. We probably all have seen the abuses of authority and wrong forms of submission, and it has made many of us wary and resistant to the true benefits of Godly submission.
- B. I want to encourage those who have been abused or who are sensitive to this topic to bear with me.

II. Submit

A. Definition of "Submit"

1. **Oxford Dictionary** - accept or yield to... the authority or will of another person.
2. The phrase "submit to one another" could also be rendered "be subject to one another".

B. What Submission IS NOT

1. Submission should never operate in fear.
2. Submission should never cause someone to sin.
3. Submission is not being subservient to the intimidations or manipulation of other men or women.

C. What Submission IS

1. Submission comes from a revelation and understanding of the character of Christ. Satan demanded full independence from the authority of God. Jesus perfectly yielded to the Father's authority, fully dependent upon the Father. And even though Jesus is head of the church, He does not Lord it over us. Our submission to Him is voluntary.
2. Submission brings order. You can't help but be struck with awe at the ordered array of the universe God created, from the smallest sub-particles to the myriad of galaxies. Everything functions in order by submission and authority.
3. Submission does not diminish us. It extends the boundaries of our spirituality.
4. Submission is a choice. It is not demanded of us.
5. Submission can be a means of accelerated growth and imparted grace.
6. The submitted person of the relationship is the beneficiary of the relationship, much more than the one in authority.

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III. Authority

We can't fully understand submission without first looking at authority, because authority is what we submit to.

A. Definition of "Authority"

1. Oxford Dictionary - the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. The power to influence others.

B. What Authority Does For Us

1. Authority increases our sphere of influence.
2. Authority brings added responsibility.
 - a. "With great power comes great responsibility" — Uncle Ben from Spiderman
 - b. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more." — Luke 12:48b
3. With faithfulness, proving and testing authority can increase through promotion. And with promotion, our sphere of influence grows and our responsibility increases.

C. Roman Centurion

1. A powerful example in scripture is in Matthew 8:5-13.
2. He could move in authority because he was under authority.

D. The Difference Between Power & Authority

1. Power (dunamis) - Derived from a Greek word where we get the word dynamite from.
 - a. Power from God is a Gift.
 - b. Power is temporary. Like a vapor, it appears then lingers and is gone without a trace.
 - c. Power is the force that changes stuff. Power turned water into wine. Power opens deaf ears and blind eyes.
 - d. Acts 2 was power (dunamis) - Holy Spirit's baptism gives us power to be witnesses.
2. Authority (exousia) - Is influence and the right or privilege to rule.
 - a. Authority comes from God through intimacy.
 - b. Authority removes infirmities, afflictions, and demons from a person.
3. Examples of Authority

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- a. In ancient times, kings conquered by power but they ruled with authority. The scepter that a king held in his left hand was a symbol of his authority. Also the crown is a symbol of this. His right hand was used for matters of power.
- b. Exousia is greater than dunamis. Authority trumps Power.
- c. The disciples couldn't cast out a specific kind of demon because that kind only came out through prayer and fasting (intimacy with our Father). In other words, they needed more authority and that only comes through intimacy and relationship with our Heavenly Father.
- d. When Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea, Jesus used authority to calm the sea. And that tells us that the source of the storm was demonic forces.

IV. Types of Submission

A. We're called to Submit to (be Subject to):

G5293 / LN 36.18 = come under the rank, to subject

1. Governing Authorities - Romans 13:1, Titus 3:1
2. To One Another - Ephesians 5:21
 - a. Wives to Husbands; Husbands to Wives - Ephesians 5:21, Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:5
 - b. Ephesians 5:21 (NASB) - and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
3. The Father of spirits - Hebrews 12:94.
4. Young Men to Elders - 1 Peter 5:5

B. Different Greek word is used for Obey:

G5219 / LN 36.15 = listen and attend to; to do what one says, to carry out someone's orders

1. Slaves Obey Masters - Titus 2:9, Ephesians 6:5
2. Children Obey Parents - Ephesians 6:1
3. Note that it does not say, "Wives Obey Husbands"!

C. Devoted to One Another / Give Preference

1. "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor" -- Romans 12:10 (ESV)

D. The Ultimate Test

1. The ultimate test of submission to authority is when decisions are made that we don't agree with.

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- a. Not regarding moral issues.
- b. But when it's a difference of opinion.

E. Kingdom of USA vs Kingdom of Heaven

1. Growing up in a democratic society can cause confusion with understanding the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. Here we appoint leaders of our choosing. In Heaven, there is only One King.
3. The church government is modeled after God's Kingdom order. We are not a democracy.

V. Benefits of Submission

A. Submission is a Vehicle for Receiving

1. It extends the boundaries of our spirituality into the lives of the people we're submitted to who have been transformed by Christ as His gifts to us! (Eph. 4:11-12)

B. Impartation

1. We possess a portion of spiritual power and authority, but by putting ourselves in submission to another, we gain some measure of the other person's anointing.
2. Impartation can be received when someone sees something Christlike in another's life and asks to receive it, submitting to their anointing. This does not even have to be in person, it can come through books or audio/video!

C. Increase

1. Godly submission does not diminish us, it strengthens and enlarges us. If we give out more than we receive then that is not proper submission.
2. "He who received a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward" — Matt 10:41
 - a. Example of the Prophet: The prophet's reward is the unique power dimension that person of God has purchased with sacrifice and suffering. By humbly receiving from them we can obtain, without cost, a measure of the prophet's reward. In like manner, the multitudes received Christ and received the reward of healing, deliverance, and eternal life. But those who didn't submit (pharisees and those from His home town) received very little if anything. Their un-submitted attitudes disqualified them from receiving the benefits of Jesus' power and authority.
3. Submission is a vehicle for receiving.
4. It extends the boundaries of our spirituality into the lives of the people we're submitted to who have been transformed by Christ as His gifts to us! (Eph. 4:11-12)