

Submission: Christ's Unpopular Example

Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter

March 20 & 21, 2010

1 Peter 2:13-3:7

2:¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. ¹⁸ Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

• **The fallacy: submission is all for nothing.**

The fact: submission is all _____.

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ 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. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

• **The fallacy: submission is only for weaklings**

The fact: submission is _____.

3:¹ Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 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.

• **The fallacy: submission is passive & pathetic.**

The fact: submission is _____.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. When you hear the word submission, what comes to mind? What is it that makes the concept of submission so terribly unpopular?
2. Name some advantages of obeying the law.
3. Rom. 13:1-3 also teach that we're to submit to the law. Is disobedience to government authorities ever warranted? If so, under what circumstances? See Acts 4:18; 5:28,29.
4. Let's summarize the opening verses of this section. Describe the extent, motivation and intent of submission to civil authorities.
5. 1 Peter 2:18-20 refer to the relationship between a slave and master, but this material has application in our role as employees, submitting to our superiors. Similar scripture is found in Philemon; Eph. 6:5-8; Titus 2:9,10; Col. 3:22-24; 1 Cor. 7:20-24; and 1 Tim. 6:1,2. List the principles you find in these verses that apply to us as workers.
6. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. Why does Peter put these verses about Jesus right in the middle of this section on submission in relationships?
7. Notice that verse 24 tells us the result of Christ's death on the cross. Focus on the phrase that begins with "so that...." What is the point of Christ bearing our sin?
8. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. Peter is talking about a kind of attitude that makes people truly attractive. Describe it.
9. In 1 Peter 3:7 we learn that we need to take into consideration how other people differ from us and yet remember their equal value. How will you apply this idea in your family?

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• **The fallacy: submission is all for nothing.**

The fact: submission is all for God.

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• **The fallacy: submission is only for weaklings**

The fact: submission is Christlike.

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Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 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.

• **The fallacy: submission is passive & pathetic.**

The fact: submission is strategic.