

Bridgeway Community Church  
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The Art of Submitting to Others (to be like Christ)

## SUBMISSION

- this might be a difficult topic, objectionable to others

What is the secret to submission?

The secret to submission - security & joy

“Ever since I’ve submitted my life to Christ, I have experienced security. Ever since I’ve submitted my life to Christ, I have experienced joy.”

Rarely are we ever taught how to submit to people who are above you, in authority over you.

### **Feeling Secure as a Follower.**

Colossians 3:18-4:1, NIV

<sup>18</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

<sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

<sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

<sup>4:1</sup> Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

When you read this passage, who is missing?!

- Mothers! Why is that?

- is it that because mothers know how to instinctively serve their families and submit to whatever task is necessary to get done what needs to be done?
- because they don't need admonitions on how to be a mom

By and large, mom's take care of their children right from the beginning and that is where the security begins.

**Security with a mother's care just seems to be natural and instinctive, while other relationships almost need rules to get to that same level of security.**

Who is VERY present outside the house? Masters!

As an African-American male in America the word 'master' can really jack you up!

You've got to understand when you are reading the scriptures that the slavery that is talked about in the Bible is NOT the same slavery that is talked about in the history of America. The European, Portuguese and Spanish slavery of black Africans was the kind of a slavery where people were kidnapped and forced into dehumanization.

When slave masters used this verse, they wanted black people to think that God wants you to be obedient to those who are persecuting you.

God is always about liberating, not persecuting. He liberated the Israelites from Egypt. He brought liberty to those who were oppressed and poor. Jesus says he was even anointed to do so.

Luke 4:16-21, NIV

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18**

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

**19**

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**20** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21** He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Don’t understand this passage with these words ‘master’ and ‘slavery.’ It would be better to translate it as ‘employer’ and ‘employee.’**

Colossians 4:1

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair

Employers are supposed to provide what is RIGHT and what is FAIR to their employees.

The kind of slavery/employee relationship we are talking about biblically is the indentured servitude or labor force like the biblical story of Jacob.

Jacob - Rachel - Laban - Leah story

Genesis chapters 28-31, specifically 29:14-30

Jacob choose to work for Laban for 14 years for Rachel. This was a chosen indentured servitude. He wasn’t kidnapped from his family and made to be a slave.

When we talk about the labor force, you get to choose what job you want to go to, what boss you want to work for and what reward is worth it for you to make a volitionally decision to come into the servitude of others.

**Mothers and Masters can make people feel a sense of security.**

- Mothers make us feel secure EMOTIONALLY

- Masters/employers make us feel secure ECONOMICALLY

Submission can bring a sense of security when you have good work and good family relationship.

Do we need the rules for the other relationships?

Colossians 3:23, NIV

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

<b>THE WHAT:</b>	<b>Whatever you do</b>
<b>THE HOW:</b>	<b>Work at it with all your heart</b>
<b>THE WHO:</b>	<b>As working for the Lord</b>

That means when I submit to my husband, I am doing it 'as unto the Lord'

That means when I love my wife, I am doing it 'as unto the Lord'

That means when I work on my job, I am doing it 'as unto the Lord'

- Even if the work I am doing with all my heart is not my favorite thing to do

In the morning: "What I am about to do, I am doing for the Lord"

In the evening: "What I did today, I did it for the Lord"

Especially when it is hard:

- married to a man you DON'T want to submit to
- married to a woman that is hard to love
- when you have a father that exasperates/embitters/discourages you
- my your company never say you were lazy, asleep on the job, weren't giving your best

**THE WHO NOT: Not for men**

There is a difference between AFFIRMATION and APPROVAL. Yes we like the affirmation of people and it's okay to get it, but what we want approval from the Lord.

God created you just the way you are: your gifts, your skills, your emotions, your intellect. God put that in you. When you submit to him, you take those gifts and surrender them to others in the building up of God's kingdom and you will be fulfilled and feel a sense of security.

When people don't do work 'as unto the Lord' they don't feel secure.

- going to lose their money
- going to lose their job
- going to lose whatever they have gained

When you're doing it for men, you can never really count on them.

### **Submission Leads to Joy**

Hebrews 13:17-21

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

<sup>18</sup> Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. <sup>19</sup> I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

<sup>20</sup> May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

How are supposed you to handle those who watch over your souls as shepherds?

1. **Obey** - give them your confidence

- obey means to yield, give your confidence, trust their guidance
- when you have confidence in your leaders by giving trust over to them for your guidance, you're actually demonstrating confidence in the Lord and your obedience to THEM is your obedience to HIM.

We are not talking about heavy handed leadership. We're talking about shepherds who know how to guide people based on what they hear from the Lord.

If you want your leaders to be people of joy and not have the burden of leadership, then one of the things that you can do to help - as a practical application - is to obey or give them your confidence trusting that God is speaking to them.

2. **Pray** - give them your prayers

He uses the word pray in verses 18 & 19.

What do you pray for?

PURITY of their lives (v.18)

The PATH of their lives (v.19)

Their lives would be PLEASING to the God (v.21)

People think that purity, path & pleasing is easy for leaders, but it is NOT.

3. **Say** - give them your words of support and affirmation

Hebrews 13:22-25

Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.

<sup>23</sup> I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

<sup>24</sup> Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

<sup>25</sup> Grace be with you all.

If you want to be a blessing to your leaders, then use your words to support them.

A note or a text goes a long way.

A gift goes a long way.

Encouragement goes a long way.

Pastors, Ministers, Life Group Leaders, Elders, Bible Study Leaders, Ministry Leaders.

**Submission is NOT a bad word! It is actually a word of security and a word joy.**