

092 - Who We Are Submitting To - Ephesians 5:21 - 2016-05-15

Call to Worship: Ephesians 1:3

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8

Sermon: "Who We Are Submitting To" Ephesians 5:21

Benediction: Ephesians 6:24

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Last time we learned some things about what submitting means

We learned what the word "submitting" means
placing yourself under in an arrangement or order

We saw some of the things that have to be left behind or rejected in order for submitting to take place

1. we reject pride, which the world commends, and embrace humility, which God commends
2. we reject fighting for what our flesh desires from the world, in favor of seeking what God would give us by His grace
3. we reject the way of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, when they would not submit, in favor of the way of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he said, "Not my will, but Your will be done."

We also saw what submitting looks like when it is acted out

1. in the case of the believing Centurian and his soldiers: the soldiers had been placed under the Centurian, and he had been placed over them, so
 - a. when the one who was over said to one who was under, "Go," he would go
 - b. when the one who was over said to one who was under, "Come," he came
 - c. when the one who was over said to one who was under, "Do this," he did it
2. in the case of Sara and her husband Abraham
 - a. Sara, speaking to herself in her tent, called her husband "lord" or "master"
 - b. Sara obeyed her husband

So that takes us as far as the first word, "submitting." But what about the next part, "to one another" or "one to another"? **When we see that we are told "submitting to one another," who does that mean we are to submit to?**

TEXT

Ephesians 5:17-23 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (20) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another in the fear of God. (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

BODY

When we see that we are told “submitting to one another,” who does that mean we are to submit to?

NOT to everyone else; or everyone in the church; or every Christian

Reformation Heritage Study Bible - Joel Beeke

Not everyone to everyone, but as appropriate in each relationship, which Paul explains further

Harold Hoehner - DTS

submission to one another would imply that one is willing to submit to those who have authority, whether it be in the home, church, or society

Alber Barnes

The general meaning here is, that Christianity does not break up the relations of life, and produce disorder, lawlessness, and insubordination, but that it will confirm every proper authority.

Matthew Poole

to those whom ye ought to be subject in natural, civil, or church relations

When we see that we are told “submitting to one another,” who does that mean we are to submit to?

I. To **others** (5:21)

A. our flesh does not like this; I rule me; no one rules me

1. our flesh is sinful, rebellious, prideful

2. this is behavior of those filled with the Spirit

a) in the Spirit there is no resistance to being ruled by another

b) He is the Spirit of Christ, and in Christ there is no resistance to being ruled by another

B. the world does not like this; being equals, yes; being under, no!

1. the world is not wise, but unwise

2. this is behavior of those who walk not as unwise, but as wise

3. the Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom; Christ is to us all the wisdom of God

II. To those others **that God has placed over you**

A. By His institution as to the position

1. the household is God's institution; He instituted it
2. some of the things He instituted are from creation
3. some of the things He instituted are to grant us limits on the destructive effects of our sin
4. these things instituted by God at creation can be seen in an unbroken strand
 - a) creation
 - b) law
 - c) Jesus Christ and His apostles
5. every example in NT of "submit" shows this
6. verse 23 shows this with "for"
 - a) for what reason does the wife submit to her own husband? For the husband is head of the wife

B. By His providence as to the person

III. to those others God has placed over you, **as unto Christ Himself**

A. see in this verse "in the fear of Christ"

B. see in the individual cases

1. Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord
2. Eph 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, "Honor your father and mother"
3. Eph 6:5 Ephesians 6:5-8 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, **as to Christ**; (6) not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as **bondservants of Christ**, doing the will of God from the heart, (7) with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord, and not to men**, (8) knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

C. see the very clear statement of this in the parallel place in Colossians 3:23-24
And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

D. He

1. was willing to be ruled by the Father
2. did the will of God the Father rather than His own
3. it was the will of God to crush Him, for the sake of us rebels
 - a) we refused to submit; He did not
 - b) He was punished for it, the just for the unjust
4. when we submit to others God has placed over us, we are doing it unto Christ Himself, whose submission to His Father is all our salvation

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Submit to others always from the heart of submission to our Lord Jesus Christ
- B. Do not try to re-arrange God's arrangement
 - 1. Do not submit to those who by God's institution are under you
 - a) children
 - b) wife
 - 2. Do not demand of those who are over you that they submit to you
 - a) not in words
 - b) not in actions
- C. Submit yourself in these ways
 - 1. in the mind - acknowledge the truth of it
 - a) God has placed you under others, by institution and by providence
 - b) this is the truth
 - 2. in the heart - love it
 - 3. in the conscience - judge it
 - a) right to submit to those others God has placed over you
 - b) sinful not to submit to those others God has placed over you
 - 4. in the will - determine to walk this way

CONCLUSION

When we see that we are told "submitting to one another," who does that mean we are to submit to?

Submitting "to one another" in this sense means placing yourself under the other people God has placed over as unto Christ Himself.

As Paul writes His letters, he says “submit”

Titus 2:4-5 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, **obedient to their own husbands**, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Titus 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be **obedient to their own masters**, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be **subject to rulers and authorities**, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

Ultimately, we are submitting to our Lord Jesus Christ, and through Him to God the Father.

Who is set over, and who is set under is

-by God's appointment

-by God's providence

JRY:

As to the servant-master relationship

God did not ordain that it would be

-involuntary

-by violence

-according to skin color

-cruelly enforced

-perpetually maintained

God did ordain that it would exist

JRY:

In arguing my position, I am arguing directly against Calvin!

Hopefully I never address you with a new interpretation of the bible, never before understood by Christ's church. Whenever I interpret the bible in a way that does not

agree with *all* of the best pastors, I make sure I am in agreement at least with *some* of the best pastors.

Calvin:

God has bound us so strongly to each other, that no man ought to endeavor to avoid subjection; and where love reigns, mutual services will be rendered. I do not except even kings and governors, whose very authority is held for the service of the community. It is highly proper that all should be exhorted to be subject to each other in their turn. But as nothing is more irksome to the mind of man than this mutual subjection, he directs us to the fear of Christ, who alone can subdue our fierceness, that we may not refuse the yoke, and can humble our pride, that we may not be ashamed of serving our neighbors.

JRY:

I do not agree that service and submission are synonymous or interchangeable, or that the present of service proves submission.

That those in authority are to submit themselves to God does NOT mean that they are to submit themselves to those under their authority.

According to Station	Mutual
Poole	
Trapp In regard of love and modesty, not of change and confusion of offices.	
Harold Hoehner its application to one another in mutual submission to one another would imply that one is willing to submit to those who have authority, whether it be in the home, church, or in society.	
Barnes In your proper ranks and relations	
Stephen B. Clark i.e. let each of you subordinate himself or herself to the one he or she should be subordinate to.	
Gordon Fee	community; no longer, "Who's in charge" but "How can I love?"

Let us examine a concept and set it aside: submitting to one another means every Christian to every other Christian.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

1 Corinthians 11:33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.