

## THE POWER OF SUBMISSION

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

We all are called to submission. Even the most powerful person on the planet will have to bow their knee to Christ some time. God the Father has the ultimate authority and we all are called to submission. There is even submission in the godhead. Jesus submits to the Father, and the Spirit has come to serve and glorify Christ. Although each member in the Trinity is equal, there still is authority and submission in the Trinity. The fact of the matter is that God has chosen submission as a receptacle for His power and blessing. God has set up lines of authority that He sends His power, blessings, and resources through. These lines of authority are His channels He chooses to flow through. Places of submission are the places where His power, blessings, and resources flow to. Places of submission are receptacles for God's flow. Most people think that submission is a negative thing. Many have been abused by those in authority and have a negative attitude towards submission. Many also see submission as a place of weakness. Submission is neither a bad thing nor is it a place of weakness. **Actually, there is power in submission.** I want you to see something very interesting about biblical submission and authority. In the New Testament different places of authority and submission are mentioned. There are **masters [bosses] and slaves [employees]**, there are **husbands and wives**, and there are **parents and children**. When God addresses these places of authority and submission which does God address first?

Most would say that God addresses those in authority and then those under authority. However, this is not the case. In every instance God addresses the place of submission first. Let's see this:

Eph 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

Eph 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

Eph 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Eph 6:8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

Eph 6:9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Col 3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Col 3:25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Col 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

1Ti 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed.

1Ti 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

1Pe 3:1 Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

1Pe 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Eph 6:2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:

Eph 6:3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

In each of these passages God always addresses the person in submission first. You would think God would start with those in authority first and then those in submission. Why does God start invariably with those in submission? It is important to know that all authority comes from God and God has control over His authority. He gives it when and where He chooses and He can take it back. Although God has control over His authority, **God does not have control over our submission.** Submission comes from us. God has allowed us the choice to submit or not. God has

chosen to use submission to be His receptacle for His power, blessing, and resources that He sends through the channels of authority. He needs it before His flow can come down to us. The word submission is from the Greek word **hupotasso**. This word means *to be arranged under*. Submission is connected with the word humility. The word humility in the Greek means *low lying*. Just as low ground will always collect water because water will always seek the lowest place to fill up first, so it is with the flow of God's power, blessings, and resources. It will be drawn to the lowest place and fill it up. When we submit to God and to those He has given authority over us then the flow of God will come to fill us! Again, God has control over His authority. If someone abuses the authority God can remove them. However, if we fail to submit, God will not make us submit. God has ordained submission and authority to work together. It is important to note that those in submission have the control over the flow that comes through authority! If someone refuses to submit to the authority over them they are operating in pride and are refusing to humble themselves. Since they lift themselves up in pride the flow of God is cut off. There is no place for the flow to go just like when there is no low ground for water! There is no longer a receptacle for the flow to fill up. However, if someone will humble themselves and submit even to those who they do not agree with or are not making the right decisions then it will cause a demand upon the flow of God. If someone will humble themselves and submit it will create pressure on the place of authority so the flow can get to them! There can

be so much pressure put on the channel of authority that the person in authority will be forced to change or they will be removed! **It is important to know the power of submission. Submission controls the flow of God.** If someone fails to submit then often those in authority will remain unchanged for quite a long time because there is no pressure on them to change. Too many work situations have remained the same because of a lack of submission. Too many marriages have been unchanged because of a lack of submission. Too many families are unchanged because of lack of submission. It is also true that work places, marriages, and families are messed up because of those in authority are abusing or not using their authority but I want you to see that this can be changed or influenced by submission. Too often people operate in mere agreement and not in submission. When they agree they will follow along, but when they disagree then they will not submit. The touchstone of true submission is when you don't agree with authority. Submission is not slavery or being forced to do something. Submission is honoring God and the authority He has placed in the earth. When we recognize where we fit and submit under the authority set over us then the flow of God will start to flow towards us. If we rebel against authority the flow stops. People are not perfect and sometimes they are wrong, but if those under them refuse to submit then what is wrong will continue to be wrong. We all can experience the power of submission. We have the control on the flow of God. We can stop it or draw upon it! There is power in submission!