

God's Word on Governing

A Study
Through Discussion

Part X: Submitting

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X. SUBMITTING

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ..”

- Philippians 2:5

- Do I have to submit? What is the difference between submitting and obeying?
- We have reviewed Scriptures which show God’s grants of authority. There are even more which direct submission to authorities thus ordained.
- How do you respond to these appeals -- and commands -- from God, through His word?

What is your visceral reaction to the word submitting? Do you readily submit? Or is it what you would rather have others do in relation to you? It is a concept of which the New Testament has very much to say.

In the studies to this point we have focused more on the holding of authority in stewardship for God. Now we focus on our relation to those stewards "over" us. How often, it seems, these stewards don't understand our viewpoint! What about this submitting?

(We realize there have been martyrs for the faith, who bravely refused to submit in some things. We'll give some thought to that in Session XII. The examination of theologically principled political resistance however is largely beyond the scope of this discipleship study.)

Consider these stewards—what are our obligations as their subordinates?

1. Parents: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

- a) Children are to be _____ to parents in _____. Col. 3:20
- b) Reasons given:
This is _____. Eph 6:1
This is _____. Col. 3:20

2. Employers: Eph.6:5-8; Col.3:22-24; I Peter 2:18-20

- a) If we are servants by agreement rather than “slaves” (the term more precise than “servants”, as used in Eph. 6: 5 and Col. 3:22), is our obligation under these verses in any way modified?
- b) How would you express the basic point repeated in each of verses 5, 6 and 7 of Ephesians 6; and 22 and 23 of Col. 3 (a total of five repetitions)?
- c) What promise is made in Ephesians 6:8 and Colossians 3:24?
- c) What, besides submission, is called for?

- d) What is one standard excuse which does not justify non-submission? I Peter 2:18
 - e) For servants, what circumstance is said to rise to the level of "finding favor" or "approval" with God? I Peter 2:19-20
3. Ministers to and Authorities over congregations and ministries? I Peter 5:5; I Cor 16:15-16; Heb. 13:17; I Thess. 5:12
- a) What are the two commands of I Peter 5:5, and the two reasons given?
 - b) Under the instruction of I Cor.16:15-16, to what two sorts of persons should you "submit: yourself" or "be in subjection"?
 - c) What is the difference between the two separate aspects of the command in Hebrews 13:17?

What reasons are given for the command?

What would give joy to those shepherds who "keep watch" or "have the rule" over you?

4. Various Other Authorities

- a) Titus 3:1

To rulers ("principalities") and to authorities ("powers", or others holding power), we are both to be _____ and to _____ (and to be ready to do good things). Repeating the question of 3 c) above, what is the difference between the first two commands in Titus 3:1?

How do the ways and qualities of verse 2 add clarity to the command of verse 1?

- b) I Peter 2:13-15

We are to submit to every _____ of _____ for the sake of _____. . Examples are given following this command. Rephrase in your own words what in essence we are to submit to according to verse 13.

Verse 15 says we are to do right. What sort of "right" doing is referred to? (Compare I Peter 2:12 and 3:17)

- c) Romans 13:1-5

Why must we submit? (vv. 1, 5)

What would resistance constitute? (v.2)

Who is to have oversight of the culprit's body, and who of his spirit? (v.5)

- b) Acts 5:3-5

5. Why might Jesus refuse to take jurisdiction and judge a case? Luke 12:13-14