FBMC Bible Study

April 17, 2024

**2024 Church Theme: “Embracing Your Identity and Purpose*”***

**1 Peter 2 & 3**

**SUBMISSION**

**Review:**

**1 Peter 2: 11-12 (ERV)** *Dear friends, you are like visitors and strangers in this world. So I beg you to keep your lives free from the evil things you want to do, those desires that fight against your true selves.****12People who don’t believe are living all around you. They may say that you are doing wrong. So live such good lives that they will see the good you do, and they will give glory to God on the day he comes.***

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1 Peter, chapters 2 & 3, one of the themes Peter addresses is “Submission.”  Submitting means putting others before yourself. It means putting God's desires above your desires.  CS Lewis wrote: "True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." In the same way, submission is not self-loathing nor does it ignore self-care and self-value. Rather it is a decision to yield to someone else and to put their interests ahead of your own[[1]](#footnote-1). Here in 1 Peter 2 & 3, Peter lifts three arenas where believers are to be submissive to others. Let’s at the text…

**Submission to Government**

**1 Peter 2: 13-17 (ERV)** *Be willing to serve the people who have authority in this world. Do this for the Lord. Obey the king, the highest authority (*For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state NLT)*.****14****And obey the leaders who are sent by the king. They are sent to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do good.****15****When you do good, you stop ignorant people from saying foolish things about you. This is what God wants.*

***16****Live like free people, but don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Live as those who are serving God.****17****Show respect for all people. Love your brothers and sisters in God’s family. Respect God, and honor the king.*

* As Christians, we should be good citizens, submitting to our government.
* What does it mean to submit?
* How do we show we belong to God by submitting to our government?
* Why did God establish authority?

**Submission on our Job**

**1 Peter 2:18-25 (NLT)** *You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel.****19****For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment.****20****Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.* ***21****For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ sufferedfor you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.* ***22****He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.* ***23****He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.* ***24****He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.* ***25****Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.*

**Cross reference: Colossians 3: 22-25 (NLT)**

***22****Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord.*

***23****Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.****24****Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.****25****But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.*

* How does these verses apply to us in today’s world?
* How should we treat our employers?

**Submission in our homes (family)**

**1 Peter 3: 1-7 (NLT)** *In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over****2****by observing your pure and reverent lives.* ***3****Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.****4****You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.****5****This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They put their trust in God and accepted the authority of their husbands.****6****For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.* ***7****In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

**Cross Reference: Ephesians 5: 21-33 (NLT)** *And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* ***22****For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.****23****For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.****24****As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.* ***25****For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her****26****to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.****27****He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.****28****In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.****29****No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.****30****And we are members of his body.* ***31****As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”****32****This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.****33****So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

* What does it mean to be subject to your husband?
* How are husbands to treat their wives?

The word submission makes many Christians uncomfortable. They squirm or murmur against the apparent injustice of it. Somewhere along the line, Christians have come to a false notion about what submission means in the Bible. Thanks to attacks on the Biblical idea of submission, Christians have come to think of submission as oppressive. When the topic comes up, the worldly point to Paul’s passage in Ephesians, “Wives submit to your own husbands” (5:22) and cry foul. They brand the verse as sexist or even rant about the passage as justification for husbands’ mistreating or abusing their wives. They insist that these words prove the Church expects women to stay married to them. This is NOT the Biblical understanding of submission. The biggest problem with this view: the verse has been stripped of its context to promote the idea that the Bible is sexist. In fact, taken in context, the passage depicts the perfect relationship between husband and wife. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:24, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

**What submission looks like in**marriage**.** According to Paul, a faithful husband willing lays down his life for his wife. He is not a tyrant who forces her to submit to his sinful human desires but abandons his own will, affections, and needs for her sake. Further, Paul exhorts the husband to love his wife as he loves his own body and equates the husband’s care of his wife with that of Christ’s for His church (Ephesians 5:28-30). A loving husband submits his will to that of Christ, and, in doing so, imitates Him in the marriage relationship. In this context, the wife willingly surrenders to her husband just as her husband chooses to surrender his will to Christ. Submission based on love brings peace and harmony to the family. Biblical submission fosters right relationship with God and spouse and others.  In the Ephesians passage, Paul uses marriage to illustrate the perfect eternal submission of the Three Persons of the Trinity. “This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:32). [[2]](#footnote-2)

Submission is NOT:

* A Difference in Worth
* Forced Submission
* Submission to Ungodly Leadership
* Living or Acting in Fear

**NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Let us pray…**

Our Father, we thank You for Your divine love and preasence in our lives. We thank You for Your Holy Word in teaching and showing us how to live and behave in this fallen world, in the various relationships we are a part of. We pray that our lives may bring honor and glory to You. We pray that our lives become a testimony to all we come in contact with. Help us to continue to abide in You and submit to Your Will as we entrust our lives in Your hands. Keep our eyes and hearts toward You as You are our strength. This we pray in the mighty name of Jesus, AMEN.

1. What is biblical submission? (christiantoday.com) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The True Meaning of Submission - What the Bible Does & Does NOT Say (crosswalk.com) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)