

Spirituality: Learning Submission in an Age of Assertiveness

1. **We accept Biblical teaching (wives submit to husbands, children submit to parents, all submit to elders, all submit to one another) but NOT any false caricatures of what scripture teaches.**

“submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” Ephesians 5:21-24

submitting/submit/subject: Strong's #5293, hupotasso—to subordinate, submit self unto (Thayer) (appears 32 X in NT)

2. **Ungodly assertiveness can creep into our thinking and behavior.**

- The constant message from our culture is me/my/I
- Many mock Biblical submission
- It is no surprise that we might pick up some corrupt thinking
- Cultural influence aside, anyone can have a willful, rebellious spirit and reject Biblical submission

3. **What indicates an ungodly attitude about submission?**

- Resenting God's arrangement
- Making disparaging comments or jokes about submission, headship of the husband, authority of elders, etc.
- Going through the motions of submitting, but with a resentful, angry demeanor (“passive rebellion”)
- Neglecting to teach our children *why* we submit to authority
- Failing to prepare our children to submit to authority in adulthood
- Deceit: doing what I want but hiding it because I know he/they would not approve
- Having a defensive attitude about my own weaknesses and sins; resisting correction

4. **How can we correct wrong thinking about submission?**

- **Make sure you do not have misplaced guilt** (e.g., you do not have to obey a sinful command; cf Acts 4, 5.)
- **Feed your mind with truth**

–Study what God tells you to do

–Focus on Jesus' obedience

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:5-8, NKJV.

–Study other Biblical examples of godly submission

–Ask, *How did these people feel? Was it easy to submit? What motivated them to submit?*

- **Avoid bad influences**

“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”” 1 Corinthians 15:33

–What about your entertainment?

–What about your friends?

–What about other Christians?

“For there are many **insubordinate**...whose mouths must be stopped...” Titus 1:10-16

Insubordinate: **anupotaktos**—disobedient, i.e. not put under, unruly. (Thayer)

- **Find your areas of weakness and target them**

–Identify when/why/how you have a problem with submission

–Repent

–Pray

–Ask for help

- **Study good examples in your life (“mark” them)**

“Brethren, join in following my example, and **note** those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”
Philippians 3:17

- **Talk to women who are good examples; spend time with them; ask how they maintain a good spirit of submission**

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be **submissive** to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”” 1 Peter 5:5

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“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over them**, and those who are great exercise authority over them. “**Yet it shall not be so among you**; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.” Matthew 20:25, 26

“Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. **Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?**” 1 Corinthians 6:7

““He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” John 12:48

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle, willing to yield** [easy to be intreated, KJV], full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...” Hebrews 13:8, 9

“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.” Galatians 6:1

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also **for the interests of others.**” Philippians 2:4

“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.**” Galatians 5:13