

Basic Disciplines of a Believer: A Mature Believer Yields to Authority

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION (Be a Sponge!) – I am filling myself with God's Word

Joshua 1:8 – This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Discipline #2: CONTINUAL PRAYER – I am always talking to God.

Colossians 4:2 – *Continue* earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Discipline #3: YIELDED FOLLOWERSHIP – I am submitting to the authorities God places in my life.

Romans 13:1-2 – Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are **appointed** by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

New Testament “hupo” Words:

Several words are used in the NT for submission, and each has similar meanings with slightly different emphases:

- (1) **hupotasso** (ὑποτάσσω) – means “to place under; to submit to”
- (2) **hupotage** (ὑποταγή) – the noun form of hupotasso = “submission”
- (3) **hupakouo** (ὑπακούω) – means “to listen under and be responsive to”
- (4) **hupakoe** (ὑπακοή) – the noun form of hupakouo = “obedience”
- (5) **hupеiko** (ὑπείκω) – means “to yield to; to give way to” (only in Heb 13:17, from *eiko* [εἴκω], to give place or to yield, used only in Gal 2:5 in a negative sense – not to give in to those that demand keeping the Law)

Observations:

- Each word involves “under” (hupo) – Yielding or submitting is being “under” others. This is God’s idea and requirement.
- Each word is something the follower does – the commands are given to the follower!
- Each word requires us to willingly yield to and follow another.
- Each word assumes disagreement of decision or direction. It assumes that we would do something else if we were in charge. At a minimum “submission” assumes disagreement by virtue of differences of opinions as to what is the best decision or best direction. It can also involve choosing righteousness over sin.
- Each word is present as a command. Submission itself *is* righteousness. Not yielding is sin, even if the circumstance or choice does not involve a sinful decision or direction (and disobeying one authority is allowed only when one is obeying a higher authority, usually God).

Realms of Yielded Followership:

A. Believer’s GOD-WARD Submission Responsibilities

1. **Believers Are To Submit To God**
2. **Believers Are To Be Obedient To the Truth**

B. Believer’s FAMILY Submission Responsibilities

1. **Wives Are To Be Subject To Their Own Husbands**
2. **Children Are To Submit To Parents (and Parents Are To Have Their Children in Submission)**

C. Believer’s CHURCH Submission Responsibilities

1. *****Believers Are To Submit To Spiritual Leaders*****
2. **Younger (Leaders?) Are To Submit To the Elder**
3. **Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service**
4. **Women Are To Learn In Silence with All Submission**
5. **Believers Are To Submit To One Another**

D. Believer’s OUTWARD Submission Responsibilities

1. **Believers Are To Be Subject To Government Authorities**
2. **Servants Are To Submit To Their Own Masters**

Believers Are to Submit to Spiritual Leaders

(Hebrews 13:17) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν καὶ ὑπείκετε, αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες, ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες· ἀλυσιτελεῖς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο.

1. APPOINTMENT – God Has Appointed Over Us within the Church Spiritual Leaders (“Rulers”)

(Acts 20:28-31) ²⁸ "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (cp. 2 Tim 4:1-4)

(Eph 4:11-16) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Titus 2:11-15)

2. REQUIREMENT – God Commands Us to Give Way to and Submit to These Leaders

(Heb 13:7) Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of [their] conduct.

(Heb 13:17) Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν καὶ ὑπαίκετε, αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες, ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες· ἀλυσιτελεῖς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο.

(Heb 13:24) Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – God Expects Us to Honor and Protect These Leaders

(1 Tim 5:17-20) ¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer [is] worthy of his wages." ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

ILLUSTRATION – A Key Action of Leaders Is to “Shepherd” (Pastor) God’s Flock

(John 21:15-17) ¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, [son] of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

(1 Pet 5:1-4) The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.