

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 (Heb 13:17)**
(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.
 - **APPOINTMENT** – God Has Appointed Over Us within the Church Spiritual Leaders – Acts 20:28-31; Eph 4:11-16
 - **REQUIREMENT** – God Commands Us to Give Way to and Submit to These Leaders – Heb 13:7,17,24
 - **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – God Expects Us to Honor and Protect These Leaders – 1 Tim 5:17-20
 - **ILLUSTRATION** – A Key Action of Leaders Is to “Shepherd” (Pastor) God’s Flock – John 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:1-4
2. **Younger (Leaders?) Are To Submit To the Elder**
3. **Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service**
4. **Believers Are To Submit To One Another**
5. **Women Are To Learn In Silence with All Submission**

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 Others in the Church (in Addition to Spiritual Leaders)

1. Believers Are To Submit To Spiritual Leaders (Follow God's 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.

- **APPOINTMENT** – God Has Appointed Over Us within the Church Spiritual Leaders – Acts 20:28-31; Eph 4:11-16
- **REQUIREMENT** – God Commands Us to Give Way to and Submit to These Leaders – Heb 13:7,17,24
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – God Expects Us to Honor and Protect These Leaders – 1 Tim 5:17-20
- **ILLUSTRATION** – A Key Action of Leaders Is to "Shepherd" (Pastor) God's Flock – John 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

2. Younger (Leaders?) Are To Submit To the Elder (Wait Your Turn)

1 Peter 5:5-7 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." ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (1)

^{ESV} **1 Peter 5:5** Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

- Pride – going against authority, rather than submitting to it?
- Elders in generally or by position? (See 5:1)
- Be subject – imperative aorist passive
- Clothe – imperative aorist middle

3. Believers Are To Submit To Those Devoted To Service (Help Servants Serve)

1 Cor 16:15-18 ¹⁵ I urge you, brethren-- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and [that] they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints -- ¹⁶ that you also **submit** to such, and to everyone who works and labors with [us]. ¹⁷ I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. ¹⁸ For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. (1)

- Submit – subjunctive present passive

4. Believers Are To Submit To One Another (Fulfill Your Role)

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. (1)

- Does this teach **mutual submission**? (Everyone equally submits in equal fashion...?)
- The context (Eph 5:18 – 6:9):

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

²² **Wives**, [submit] to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects [her] husband.

^{6:1} **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

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

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; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free.

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.