



CREATING A CARING CONGREGATION

(Practicing the "One Anothers" of the Bible)

"Submit To One Another"

Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Why is it beneficial for Christians to study the one anothers of the bible? How would your relationships change if you committed to being a doer of the word of God as it relates to the one anothers of the bible? (Read James 1:22-25) Imagine practicing the one anothers in your home and local church congregation. Will you commit to do your part of one another relationships?

1. Think of several groups to which you have belonged. How were the groups structured? Did the group have leaders? Did the groups have rules or commitments for membership? Do you believe the groups could function well without people within the group submitting to one another? Christians are taught in the word of God to submit to God. James 4:7 teaches Christians to, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Jesus states in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Obeying God is submitting to God. Obeying God includes submitting to others when commanded to do so by God. The bible teaches us to submit one to another as appropriate in Christ.
2. Think of a time when you were asked or required to submit to someone. How did it make you feel? If you submitted why? Congregations are instructed to submit to church leaders according to Hebrews 13:17. Hebrews 13:17 states, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Children are instructed to obey their parents. Ephesians 6:1 states, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ephesians 5:22 states, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Christians are instructed in Ephesians 5:21 to submit to each other. Ephesians 5:21 states, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Jesus submitted himself to his mother and stepfather. Luke 2:51 states, "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart." Jesus is equally God but subjects himself to God the Father. 1 Corinthians 15:28 states, "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."
3. Think of a time when a person or persons submitted to you. How did you feel about another person submitting to you? Why do you think they were willing to submit to you? What attitude did you display toward those who submitted to

you? What attitude did they display toward you when they submitted? When we submit to others because we are submitting to God's order everyone should have an attitude of humility. 1 Peter 5:5 states, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to one another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisted the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." Everyone in the body of Christ must be willing to submit to others when appropriate for the body of Christ to function most effectively.

4. Have you ever refused to submit to someone who had a legitimate position of authority? Why did you resist? What was your attitude when you resisted? Were there consequences for your resistance to Authority? What impact did your resistance have on the relationship with the person you resisted and the group? There are times when Christians must resist the authority of humans to submit themselves unto God. The disciples engaged in what we would call civil disobedience. Acts 5:29 states, "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." Peter and John responded to Jewish religious leaders who told them to stop preaching by implying that they had to listen to God and not the Jewish leaders. Acts 4:19 states, "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than God, judge ye." When Jewish leaders were fighting against the leaders of the church a Jewish leader named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, gave them wise counsel. A portion of what he said was recorded in Acts 5:38-39 which states, "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Believers should seek to flow with the order of God and not fight against it. Certain situations require much prayer and wisdom when resistance is contemplated. The people of God refused to submit to Samuel when he shared God's plan with them. The people rejected God's plan and followed their plan. Samuel was very frustrated. God said these words to Samuel in 1 Samuel 8:7, "And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."
5. Have you ever been a part of a team or group that had very poor structure? Have you ever been in a group where a person or several persons consistently refused to submit to rules and authority? How would you describe the group? How do you think a system, group, family, church, school or other organization function without respect for order? Can you appreciate that God is a God of order and requires Christians to submit to him and his plan? In 1 Corinthians 14:40 Paul admonished the congregation to, "Let all things be done decently and in order." Can you imagine choir members who refuse to submit to the directions of the director as they are directing a song? Can you imagine every usher in a service doing something different from the other ushers?

6. The following bullet points are suggestions as to how you might become more effective at submitting to one another as a way of submitting unto God and his plan for our individual and collective lives. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give you more.

- Prayerfully consider whether your attitude toward authority delegated by God is respected by you.
- Ask God to give you greater insight into his order for all kingdom relationships in your life. Ask him to help you submit to him before humans but to also submit to humans when it means submitting to God's order.
- What attitude do you display toward others who are leading kingdom groups that you are a part of? Do you have an attitude of humility?
- When you are in a place of leadership do you display humility toward others who are submitting to you as a delegate of God for God's kingdom. Do you understand how inappropriate it is for one who is in a position to represent God to misrepresent God by displaying an ungodly attitude of pride and arrogance toward others.
- When you attempt to lead in a way that is consistent with the word of God and from a pure heart, remember not to take rejection personally.
- Encourage people who display humility in kingdom groups whether they are leading or following.
- Be willing to personally lead or follow with humility and understanding as a member of the body of Christ.