

## INTRODUCTION

We have been talking about the Spirit-filled life. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit there will be some marked some evidences in your life and we have been preaching through Ephesians verse after verse. We have been focusing a lot of attention and time on verses 18-21 and in the Greek text, this is all one sentence so I want us to read it together as one sentence. It says, "Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, instead be filled with the Spirit." That's the command then, here's the result speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs. Sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord. Here's the second evidence." Always giving thanks to God, the Father, for everything in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ." Here's the third evidence same sentence in the original language." Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will have a spirit of adoration you will be a singing Christian. When you are filled with the Spirit, there will be a spirit of appreciation. You will be a satisfied Christian. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will be an accommodating Christian there will be a spirit of accommodating and you will be a submissive Christian.

I have had a lot of people tell me when they left the 8:30 service "Pastor, I have never heard a sermon of mutual submission. I have heard plenty of sermons of wives submit to your husbands, but never a sermon on how all Christians ought to submit to each other." Submission is not just for wives it is for Spirit-filled Christians, but people don't like to talk about submission. It gets to be something that is hard to swallow. It's like the lady who knocked on her neighbor's door, and said, "Sir, do you have a big, black pit bull?" He said, "Sure." She said, "My little miniature poodle, Fifi, just got in a fight with your pit bull, and I am sorry to tell you that my miniature poodle, Fifi, killed your pit bull." He said, "What?! How in the world could your miniature poodle kill my pit bull?" She said, "Fifi got stuck in his throat." That's the topic of submission. It gets hung in people's throat and they say, "I don't know if I can swallow this idea of submission." Singing, I can handle that. Giving thanks no problem but, really submit to other Christians?" That's what the Bible says.

## I. THE MEANING OF SUBMISSION

There are three things about submission to know. Number one, what does it mean to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ? The definition of submission is when one of two equal persons (equal is the key) recognizes the God-designed authority of the other. Why do we submit? Here's the answer to create order out of chaos. Since Genesis 1:1, that's what God has been doing. He has been creating order out of chaos. The world was without form it was a void chaotic and God said, "Let there be light." He brought order into chaos. That's what God wants to do in your life, in your country, in your church, and in your family. He wants to create harmony and order—without submission it will not happen. Submission is when one of two people equal in God's eyes voluntarily recognizes the God-designed authority of the other. If you want to know what the word "submit" is in the original language, it is the word *hupotasso* and it comes from two words *hupo*, meaning "underneath" and *tasso*, meaning "to line up." It is a picture of how someone lines up under the leadership of somebody else. When there is no *hupotasso* following the leadership, there is always chaos. There is anarchy. There are problems. It is like when Mike stood up a while ago to lead the choir and to lead the orchestra all these

people stood up and they *hupotassoed*. They lined up under Mike's leadership. When Mike brought them in, they all came in together. When he cut them off, they all cut off together. What do you think would have happened if one of them said, "I think I know more about music than Mike does? I don't think I want to *hupotasso* under him. I think I'm just going to start singing when I want to sing. I'll stop singing when I want to stop. You say, "Some of them do that anyway." Right Mike? No, they followed his leadership and so that's what it means to line up under the direction or leadership of someone else.

## 1. Government

Now submission must take place in many areas of our lives. Let me give you four quick examples where there must be submission to authority. Number one is in government. The Bible teaches that. In government there must be submission to authority. If you care to turn back to Romans 13:1, the Bible teaches that we are to be submissive to our governmental authorities. It's right there in black and white. "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities for there is no authority except that which God has established." The authorities that exist have been established by God. So we have an obligation as citizens and as Christians that we are to *hupotasso submit* to our governmental authorities.

In nations of the world where that doesn't take place, what is there? Anarchy. There are problems. The thing that keeps the fabric of our culture knit together is law and authority and our obedience and submission to that. When that doesn't happen, there are problems. In just a few minutes when you leave here and you are going to the restaurant or you are going home let's imagine you are driving down Loop 323 and you are so fired up and excited about the great music and the great service and everything that you are so happy that you forget about how fast you are going. You goose the accelerator a little bit and before you know it you are going 60 miles an hour. Suddenly, you hear a siren and you look up in the rear view mirror yep there is a police car right behind you with its lights flashing. Are you going to *hupotasso* or not? You have a choice don't you? But there are going to be consequences if you don't submit to that authority. Let's say you stop and he walks up to your car window and says, "Let me see your driver's license." Are you going to *hupotasso* or not? Are you going to say, "I'll let you see mine if you will let me see yours"? Are you going to do something like that? No. You're going to say, "Here, sir. Anything else I can do for you, sir?" The order and the security of our entire society are built upon submission to the authority of our government.

## 2. Church

Number two, another area is in the church. God has established lines of authority in the church. Where authority is not practiced and recognized you also have chaos and spiritual anarchy. Turn over to chapter 13 of Hebrews. For those of you who are in law or have experienced bankruptcy, there are some good "Chapter 13s" in the Bible. Chapter 13 of Hebrews is a good Chapter 13. Chapter 13, verse 7 it talks about how in God's church he has some clearly established leaders: The pastors and deacons of the church are to be the spiritual leaders. When the church does not recognize and follow it, there are problems. Verse 7 says, "Remember your leaders." This is talking about spiritual leaders. It is in the context. "Who spoke the word of God to you? Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Verse 17 is another

admonition. "Obey your leaders and submit [it is the word, *hupotasso*] submit to their authority for they keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy not a burden for that would be of no advantage to you."

Have you ever heard of churches splitting? Absolutely. It happens all the time but one of the reasons it happens is because there is no submission to authority. I read about a church last year in East Texas. Many of you did too. There were some deacons in the church who did not like the pastor so one Wednesday night at a business meeting they carted in a whole bunch of members who had not attended in eons, and made a motion to fire the preacher. They had enough votes so the preacher was fired. Then when were there the next Sunday, somebody made a motion that they fire the deacons and it passed so they fired their preacher they fired their deacons and what happened as a result of that were 3 or 4 little churches.

I think the heart of God is grieved when churches split like that, all because there is no submission to the spiritual leadership in the church. Some people are just that way. They don't want to submit to anybody! When you submit to God-established authority, you are not saying you are inferior to them. When that state trooper or policeman pulls you over when you stop, you are not saying, "He's a better person than I am." You are submitting to his authority. When one of two equal persons recognizes the God-established authority of the other some people don't want to do that in church. There is a true story about a guy who was just that way. He didn't want to follow anybody. So in one church he didn't like the way the leaders were doing, so he took a group of people out of that church and started his own church. Before long he got mad at them because they wouldn't see things the way he wanted to see them so, he left that church. Somebody was talking to him and said, "How do you worship now? Where do you go to church?" He said, "Oh, it's just me and my wife on Sundays. We just worship in our home." He said, "Do the two of you worship together?" "Not exactly. We don't agree. She worships in one room and I worship in another room." whenever somebody tries to talk about they're always right and they have a high opinion of their opinion, you are always going to have division and heartache.

I thank God that Green Acres Baptist Church is a great church who follows its leaders. I thank God for that! I honestly thank you for the way you are such good followers. I understand that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd of this church and he has called me here to be the "under" shepherd. As a shepherd leads sheep, I am committed to lead this church to accomplish God's will. I am committed to lead this church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, if Jesus tarries, to reach more people than ever before. I love you and I appreciate the way you follow. I really believe if I were to say to you, "Let's meet up here at 6:00 tomorrow morning. We're going to attack Hell with water pistols." I think there would be a whole bunch of you that would say, "Just tell me where to fill up. I'm ready to go, pastor!" And I thank God for that. Churches that are having problems are having them because there is no *hupotasso*, no following God's established order.

### 3. Families

Number three. This is also true in families. In the family there must be submission. Ephesians 5:22 is a section on the family. "Wives, submit to your husbands." Then, look at chapter 6, verse 1 it says, "Children, obey." In the home God has established some order. Some women

absolutely hate the part where it says, "Wives submit." Why? Because for you to submit to your husband is not saying you are inferior to him. By the way, there is absolutely nowhere in the Bible that teaches all women should submit to all men. No. In God's eyes there is no male and no female—they are all one in God's eyes. But in the home he established an order that wives are to recognize the loving leadership of their husbands. Where that doesn't happen, there are problems in the home. He has also established the order that children are to submit to the authority of their parents and when that doesn't happen, there are all kinds of heartache and problems.

I don't preach a whole lot against "rock music" like some do. Some of you wish I would preach against it. I don't have any problem with the beat, because I think the music itself is neutral. What I always look at are the lyrics and the lifestyles of those performing it. If those are wrong then be careful! There is a theme running through some rock music that teaches "Rebel against all authority! Don't follow the authority of the government. Don't follow the authority of your church. Don't follow the authority of your family. You be your own leader your own god." There's a phrase from a song that keeps pounding in my mind that's been around for years. It says, "Don't put your trust in church and state." That's just one example. Kids, do yourself a favor and learn to submit to the authority of your parents, because God is trying to teach you that if you will learn to submit to the authority of your parents, you will live a happy, blessed life. If you *don't* submit to the authority of your parents, when you go to school, you won't submit to the authority of your schoolteachers. Then when you go into business, you won't submit to the authority of your supervisor, then out in the world you won't submit to the authority of the law. What are the consequences of disobeying your parents? They may spank you. They may ground you or simply send you to your room. I like the guy who said you don't send your teenager to their room anymore for punishment because they have computers, video games, VCRs, TV, CDs in there. He said, "I send them to MY room and I go to their room when I punish them."

So when you disobey your parents, what are the consequences? A slap on the wrist. But what about when you disobey in school? Those are a little worse. You may fail. You may get suspended the consequences are a little worse. If you don't learn to submit what are the consequences when you go to work and you don't submit to the authority of your boss? Then, it starts hurting in your pocketbook, because you'll lose your job. Worst of all what are the consequences when you don't submit to the authority of the law? I don't have to tell you they don't send you to your room they send you to *their* room and that's not much fun. So, kids, do yourselves a favor. Learn to submit to the authority of your parents because God is trying to get you ready to live in society as a whole.

#### 4. Business

So in government, in church, in family and then number four it's even in business. Yes, the Bible teaches that even in business it is the Christian thing to do to submit to your bosses, those who are over you. Look at Ephesians 6:5, "Slave," (many of you may be thinking, "That's me. I feel like a slave on my job.") No in our vernacular it would be the word "employees") "obey your earthly masters [bosses] with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ." In other words don't just say, "Yes, boss." Don't be the kind of worker who works hard when the boss is around and then when he is not around you just are lazy. No, the Bible says you

are to submit to the leadership of those over you in business because God established that and where you don't have it, there is anarchy.

Now look at those four areas. There are countries on the face of this earth where there is chaos and confusion because there is no submission to authority. There are churches at this moment even as we are meeting right now that sitting through their service is like a ride through Ulcer Gulch. It's just a painful experience to go to those churches because there is no *hupotasso*, there is chaos. There are families some of you are here today where because of marriage problems or children problems there is chaos because there is no submission to authority. There are some businesses that are on the edge simply because there is not any submission to leadership and authority.

A policeman never has to stand up and say, "You had better follow my authority!" No, he just acts out his role. A pastor should never have to stand up in front of a church and say, "You had better follow me!" No he just follows Jesus and it's up to the people to follow. A husband never, ever has to say or should say to his wife, "You had better submit to me!" No you love her the way Jesus loves the church and she will follow you. Parents, you really should never have to say to your kids, "You'd better submit to my authority! Did you hear what the preacher said?" No you just be a parent to them and train them up to know the Lord. There has to be authority, but there must be recognition of that authority or it doesn't work.

There is a story about a guy who worked for the government. He was out in West Texas taking some geological readings. He went up to an old farmer in West Texas and he said, "Sir, I need to go out into your pasture and take some readings." The old farmer said, "You can't go out in my pasture." The guy said, "Excuse me, sir, but I do need to go out there and I have the authority of the United States government to go wherever I need to go." The farmer said, "You can't go out in my pasture." He pulled out some official documents and showed them to the farmer and said, "Look I have the signature of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior telling me I can go anywhere I want to go. I have the authority of the U.S. Government." The farmer repeated, "You can't go out in my pasture." The guy thought, "I'll show *him!*" So he climbed over the fence and started setting up his equipment. He was so engrossed in his work that he didn't notice the big, angry bull bearing down on him. Suddenly, he heard hoof beats and turned to see a two-ton bull with its head lowered coming at him like a freight train. He abandoned his equipment and began running toward the fence as fast as he could. "Help me! Help me! Help me!" The old farmer stood there casually and said, "Show him your papers!" He had the authority but, that bull didn't recognize that authority.

Authority without *hupotasso*, submission to that authority, is worthless. So that's the meaning of submission. God has established a certain hierarchy (if you want to call it that) and we are to submit to it.

## II. OUR MODEL FOR SUBMISSION

Secondly let's talk about our model for submission. Who is our model for submission? You say, "I'm about to get into this. I understand that I am supposed to line up under *hupotasso*, someone else's leadership in certain areas. Who do I need to model this practice after?" It's the Lord,

Jesus. He is our model for submission, because Jesus was the greatest submitter who ever lived.

## **1. Jesus humbled himself to his Father**

Number one Jesus voluntarily humbled himself to his Father. Did you listen as the choir sang the beautiful words from Philippians 2 about Jesus? How it says that Jesus and God the Father were co-equal, co-eternal existent in heaven forever and ever? But, God said, "This is my will that someone go to earth and tell them that I love them that I want to redeem them from the curse of the law!" The Lord, Jesus said, "Father I will go!" and he left the glories of heaven to come down to this garbage dump called planet Earth. He submitted to his Father. This is what it says it says, "He didn't think equality with God was something to be grasped at or to hang on to so he submitted himself to his Father" then in Bethlehem he was born as a little baby. Then for 33 years he lived on planet Earth and during that time he was submissive to the will of his Father. He went down from heaven he went down to a stable then he went down he said, "I even was willing to die the death of a slave on a cross" then he even went down into a grave. That's a picture of submission. Submission is where you may be exalted but you say, "I will voluntarily lower myself to somebody else's will." That's submission. You say, "I understand that. Surely that's Jesus. Only he could do that but did he ever submit himself to other people so that I can do that?" Yes he did.

## **2. Jesus humbled himself to his followers**

Not only did he humble himself to his Father, but number two, he humbled himself to his followers. You look at point number one and say, "I see the specific hierarchy but does submission take place outside that clearly defined hierarchy?" Absolutely! Because submission is for every Christian, and at times to every other Christian as the need arises. For example, the night before Jesus was crucified, he gathered with his disciples in the Upper Room to partake in the Passover meal and here are these egotistical, arrogant disciples whose feet were dirty. In the Middle East to eat food with dirty feet would be like you trying to eat food with dirty hands. It was simply unacceptable. So they were looking around. Who's going to be the slave? Where's the hired hand to wash our feet? Peter was thinking, "I'm not going to do it." Thomas was thinking, "Not me I'm not going to do it." Judas, "Not me." Instead, Jesus stood and took off his robe. The Bible says he took a towel and wrapped himself with this towel. Then, one by one he went to the disciples and knelt at their feet and he took their old, dirty feet in those holy hands that would be pierced with nails within 24 hours and he washed their feet. You can't look down on somebody when you are washing their feet. He went to Judas, who, within 24 hours would betray him for 30 pieces of silver, and washed his feet. He went to Peter, who would deny he knew him with profanity within 8 hours, and he washed his feet. Then, Jesus said, "This is an example I have given you, that you should do this to one another." He wasn't talking about literally washing feet. He was talking about having a servant's heart and being willing to humble yourself submit to other people and serve them and help them. Whenever they are dirty, whenever they need cleansing, whenever they need healing, whenever they need help, we submit to them. He is talking about service. Submission has nothing to do with inferiority. When you kneel before somebody to wash their feet, you are not inferior to them you are equal to them, but you are voluntarily submitting to them. Jesus said, "Do you know who the greatest of all the people around us is?" He held a child up and said, "The greatest is the one who is the servant of

all." Jesus is our model for submission. You are never more like the Lord, Jesus Christ, than when you submit to other people.

### **III. OUR MOTIVE FOR SUBMISSION**

Number three, what is our motive for submission? Why do we submit to one another? Ephesians 5:21 says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." That is our motive. Our love, our reverence, our holy fear of Jesus Christ. You will never submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ until you are willing to submit to other people. What is it in each of us that gets hung up on this submission idea? It's our own selfishness our own self-assertiveness, that we just don't want to submit. Notice a couple of truths.

#### **1. Demanding rights produces revolution**

Number one, demanding our rights produces revolution. When people start standing up saying, "This is my right!" "My rights are being violated!" "How dare you violate my rights!" That always produces revolution. That's what the French Revolution was all about. After centuries under monarchy rule, they said, "We are going to create a sexless [genderless], a godless, and classless society where everybody can stand up for their own rights" it resulted in chaos. When you start saying, "My rights are being violated," and you are more concerned about your rights than your responsibilities, all you are going to have is revolution. The opposite of submission are these two words "Me first!" As long as that's your attitude, you'll never submit in marriage. "Me first!" equals chaos. In families "Me first!" equals chaos. In churches "Me first" equals chaos. Selfishness is a mark of immaturity.

I can remember in all the churches I have ever been in, one of our favorite things to do is have a covered dish lunch. I really love that. I told somebody if they ever have a department of "potluck" suppers, I am going to apply for the position of Executive Secretary. I love to go to these places where everybody brings in all the fresh vegetables and the meats and the salads and the desserts and they just pile them up on a table. Everybody is standing over to the side eyeing all that food waiting for somebody to pray so they can go ahead and jump in and eat. Their salivary glands are already activated. Finally, somebody prays, "Amen" "Y'all dig in!" Have you ever noticed there is usually a certain group of people in the church who run to the front of the line? It's usually fifth or sixth grade boys. They run to the front of the line, take those plates and they load them down. They need to have sideboards on them they load them up so much and they get twice as much food as they can ever eat. They are overawed by all that food. They absolutely are not concerned about anybody in line behind them." Me first!" We expect that of fifth grade boys, don't we? Sure, but it is a mark of immaturity that you are always trying to run to the front of the line to the top of the hill. Some of you adults need not look at me so piously like you never do that. How many of you have ever pulled up to a four way stop sign and you see another car pulling up so you think, "Oh I'd better press on the accelerator so I can get there before they do so I can go first!"

"I'm here first" Zoom! It's just part of our nature. It is natural to put "Me first!" It is supernatural to put "You, first!" It's not un-natural. Submission doesn't say, "Me first!" it says, "You first!" It's like when we give the invitation, there are some people who always jump up and head for the

doors so they can get to their cars first so they can get to Luby's first." Me first!" They are more concerned about that than they are about anybody that needs to come in this direction." Me first!" "Me first!" Submission is when you are more concerned about the other person's needs than your own needs. That's what submission is all about.

## **2. Mutual submission always produces revival**

There is a second proof here: Mutual submission always produces revival. Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." "Me first!" that's selfishness. "You first!" That's submission. Do you want to know how to have joy in your life? It's an easy formula. Some of you have known this for years: Jesus, first! Others second! And yourself third. Everybody is so pious they say, "Oh yes Jesus first!" It's the next two you may stumble over. For those of you wondering why we don't put ourselves second, the Bible says, "Consider others more highly than yourself." Look out for the needs of others first. Jesus first, others second, yourself last!

Jesus humbled and submitted himself when he went to the death on a cross and down into the grave, but this same scripture says God raised him from the dead and exalted him and gave him a name above any other name. Here is the promise for submission! If you will submit yourself and humble yourself, if you will go to the back of the line, if you will go to the bottom of the hill, God will exalt you. He'll lift you up. The Bible says God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. It says humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up. That's the problem with some people. They are so busy climbing to the top of the ladder, climbing to the top of the heap, going to the top of the hill "Me, me, me, me, me!" Does it seem like God is resisting you? He resists the proud but he says, "Humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up!" God does want to lift you up. God does want to exalt you but he can't do that unless you are willing to submit.

Here's the final thing. Some of you are saying, "I kind of like this idea. I'm going to try my best to submit this week." Don't try, because you can't do it. It's in the context of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Don't try to submit. Concentrate and focus on being filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with personality and the character of Jesus Christ, and when you are filled with Jesus Christ, you can't help but submit to others out of reverence for Christ!

## OUTLINE

### I. THE MEANING OF SUBMISSION

When one of two equal persons recognizes the God-designed authority of the other.  
WHY? To create order out of chaos.

1. Government *Romans 13:1*
2. Church *Hebrews 13:7*
3. Families *Ephesians 5:22, 6:1*
4. Business *Ephesians 6:5*

### II. OUR MODEL FOR SUBMISSION

Jesus humbled himself to his:

1. Father
2. Followers

### III. OUR MOTIVE FOR SUBMISSION

"out of reverence for Christ" vs. 21

1. Demanding rights produces revolution
2. Mutual submission always produces revival

Jesus first  
Others second  
Yourself third



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For the Joy...  
Pastor David Dykes