

Lesson 11: Spirit-Controlled Church Members: Submitting to One Another

Text: Ephesians 5:22-23

Theme: This lesson reveals that a challenging part of the spiritual life becomes an invitation to inherit a blessing.

Introduction: A sign of a Spirit-filled Christian is submission. Submission is not natural. How many business books have you seen, *Joyful Submission in the Corporate Arena*? How many sports stars are demonstrating joyful submission to the referees or to their coaches or contracts? When tax season rolls around, are you practicing submission to the government? Jesus has called his followers to live a submissive life contrary to the way the world operates (Mt 20:25-28). We are called to submission in several areas of life.

- I. Be Submissive in the **Municipality** (Romans 13:1,5,7)
 - A. Even when we don't like those authorities
 - B. Even when those authorities are ungodly (Paul wrote instruction to the Romans when the wicked ruler Nero was in charge!)
 - C. Even when we don't feel like it (I Pet 2:13-15)
- II. Be Submissive in the Marketplace (Eph 6:5-8)
 - A. Even when the authority over us is **unreasonable** (Col 3:22-24; I Pet 2:18)
 - B. Even when the person is working under us (Eph 6:9; Col 4:1)
- III. Be Submissive in Marriage – This will be discussed in the next lesson!
- IV. Be Submissive in the Membership
 - A. Submission of Leaders to Followers (I Pet 5:2-3; Lk 22:27)
 - B. Submission of Followers to Leaders (Heb 13:17)
 1. A Call to submission (Heb 13:17; I Pet 5:5-6)
 2. **Assistance** for stressful situations brought about by submission (I Pet 5:7)
 - C. Submission to Each Other
 1. No longer fighting for our “rights”
 2. “Having a heart of submission born out of the supernatural power of the peace of God which is in us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.”
- V. The **Demands** of Submission (I Pet 3:8; 5:5; 3:10)
 - A. Submission demands a commitment to one another. (“be ye all of one mind”)
 1. Share a common focus (Rom 8:5)
 2. Share a common commitment to each other rather than our own trivial interests. (Note: Have the proper balance between allowing for diversity and taking a stand when needed.)
 - B. Submission demands a concern for one another. (“having compassion one of another”)

1. Compassion means to “suffer together with other people.”
 2. Rom 12:15; I Cor 12:26
- C. Submission demands charity to one another. (“love as brethren”)
 1. NT uses the word *brethren* over 200 times to describe who we are in the body of Christ.
 2. Being in the “family” together requires submission.
 - D. Submission demands compassion for one another. (“be pitiful [tenderhearted])
 1. Not a hypocritical love (Rom 12:9)
 2. A **kindness** to one another (Eph 4:32)
 - a) Are you too busy to write a note to the dad whose son is in trouble with the law?
 - b) Are you too busy to send a card to the family that had a miscarriage?
 - c) Are you too busy to stop and talk to someone who is carrying a heavy burden?
 - d) Are you too busy to provide a meal, attend a funeral, celebrate at a shower or a wedding, host a single person or a whole family in your home, or _____ (you fill in the act of kindness needed)?
 - E. Submission demands **humility** toward one another. (“be clothed with humility” – I Pet 5:5)
 1. Not a grudging acceptance of the circumstances but lit. “lowly mindedness.” (MacArthur Study Bible note on I Pet 5:5)
 2. An active willingness to be flexible, change plans, put someone else's plans above my own.
 - F. Submission demands taming the tongue. (“refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile” – I Pet 3:10)
- VI. The Blessings of Submission (Ps 34)
 - A. God's Angelic Safety System (vv. 6-7)
 - B. God's Ample Supply System (vv. 9-10)
 - C. God's Amazing Support System (v. 4; vv. 17-18)
 - D. God's Absolute Security System (v. 22)

Application

1. What can you learn from the example given in Heb 5:8 & Mt 26:39, 42?
2. Whose example are we to follow according to I Pet 2:21?

Don't miss the next lesson: *Spirit-Controlled Marriages: The Foundation for Lifelong Joy*.