

Subjection and Submission

1 Peter 5:5-7

Introduction: For many people, the idea of submission or subjection to another person is repulsive. Our society teaches a rather rebellious attitude in life as good. So when people come into the church, they bring this improper attitude with them and have a hard time living a Christian life. Subjection and submission are not popular topics even in the church. Yet, the Lord gives us clear instructions. We are to be subject to one another (1 Pet. 5:5-7).

I. The meaning of subjection and submission.

A. Subjection means to put (rank) under.

B. Submission means to withdraw or retire.

C. Both of these words give us the clear understanding that we must humble ourselves to allow others to function in their proper place (1 Pet. 5:6).

II. Subjection and submission is the glue that holds us together.

A. Please notice the husband and wife relationship as it relates to submission (Eph. 5:22-24).

1. Notice the husband is never told to put his wife into subjection.

Wives are told to put themselves in subjection.

2. Subjection is voluntary. Perhaps that is why Paul goes on to tell the husbands to love their wives so the wives will want to be in subjection to the husband (Eph. 5:25-29).

B. Yet, this passage is meant to teach us how we are to be in subjection in the church (Eph. 5:21, 30-32).

1. Did you understand the mystery of this passage? We are to be subject to one another just like the wife is to be subject to the husband; just like the church is subject to Christ.

2. If we are not in subjection and submission to one another, then we are not in subjection and submission to Christ. We will fall apart.

C. Likewise, children are to be subject to their parents (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:4) and servants are to be subject to their masters (Eph. 6:5).

III. Subjection can not be forced.

A. Can you think of an example when Jesus constrained obedience? Jesus displayed tremendous patience in teaching God's will while encouraging people to obey it. Yet, He taught them their responsibility and left them to accept it.

1. For example, Jesus exhorted Judas to do right but he didn't beg Judas not to sin. On the contrary, he said, "What you do, do quickly" (John 13:27).

2. Likewise, the angel of the Lord told John the same principle (Rev. 22:11). You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

B. We shouldn't coerce uncommitted brethren into submission. We should teach them our mutual accountability toward God and then let them decide if they want to submit.

1. How much energy is squandered on the uncommitted so that we become too weary to teach those outside of Christ?

2. Jesus did more with 11 committed fishermen in Acts 2 than with over 5000 uncommitted fish eaters in John 6.

3. Jesus never accomplished anything with people who would not submit to doing right.

C. Those who are not willing to be in subjection are carnal (Rom. 8:7-8). In fact, those who ignorantly follow Christ haven't even submitted to Christ though they are quick to define right and wrong by their own standards (Rom. 10:2-3).

IV. Submission and subjection means being faithful to the Lord in all things.

A. The principle is taught in Luke 16:10-11.

1. This principle is found in the qualification for Elders (1 Tim. 3:5).

2. This principle is found in the parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:23).

B. If a person is not faithful in small things, he won't be faithful in large things. If a person won't submit in small things, he won't be reliable in big things.

1. If a person won't assemble at each service (a small thing), what makes us think he will consider one another unto love and good works (a big thing)? [Heb. 10:24-25]

2. If a woman won't keep silent in the church (small thing), what makes us think she will be submissive to the men in church (a big thing)? [1 Tim. 2:11-12]

3. If a person won't submit himself to Christ (a small thing), what makes us think he will submit himself to others (a big thing)? [Titus 3:1-8]

Conclusion: Subjection and submission are required from all of us. When we fail to submit ourselves to one another we fail to submit ourselves to Christ. The subjection and submission that use to bind us together will no longer hold us together. Hence, we fall apart. I would like to suggest that the problems we often face in life are due to a lack of subjection and submission. We have to have it our way. If you have failed to submit yourself...