

Rooted - April 11th - Submission - Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

Colossians 3:18 - 25

NLT

Ephesians 6:3NLT

Start reading

Colossians

3:18 - 25

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. **20** Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. **23** Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. **24** Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. **25** But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.

Ephesians 6:3
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Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- In your teenage years, were you submissive to your parents' authority or did you have a rebellious streak? Has that trend carried into adulthood? What authorities do you find yourself opposing, if any, as an adult?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Submission was defined as the act of accepting the authority or control of someone else. Why do most people find that idea distasteful or even abhorrent?
- **Read Colossians 3:18-19.** Who is the leader in your marriage? Why is it important to God that a husband be the leader in a marriage? What advice would you give to a wife who is married to a husband who refuses to lead?
- Troy read a story of a husband who saw his wife after a surgery that altered her looks. How did the husband live out v. 19? As a husband, what one thing could you do this week to show your love for your wife and treat her with kindness?
- **Read Colossians 3:20-21.** If your parents are still alive, what does it look like for you to honor and obey them? Are there times when you disobey our parents? What one thing can you do this week to honor your parents?
- What's the promise for those who honor their parents?
- Have you ever crushed the spirit of your child? How do we discipline them without crushing their spirits or causing them to be bitter?
- When you go to work every day, for whom, or what do you work for? A paycheck? Your boss? What would it look like if you obeyed Colossians 3:23?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What obstacle is between you and the act of submission in one or all 3 of the relationships Troy talked about in his message?
- Submission takes humility, a surrendering of your pride. How easy is it to set aside your pride and lean into the leadership of another or to serve another? These verses never talk about leaders being someone whom you like who does what you like. How do you serve a leader with whom you disagree? Do you serve that leader? Why or why not?
- What would it look like to serve others in your family and workplace? What does submission look like in the key relationships in your life?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit this week to serve others in your family and workplace and to ask God to reveal to you about submission in the relationships in your own life.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, first and foremost I pray that you would teach me how to submit to you and your will. I know that my other relationships will follow if I'm living in submission to you. I pray this week that you would help me serve those you have blessed me with in my life and that I would see those you have placed as authorities in my life as a blessing. - Amen

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "According to the Bible, to whom are we to be submissive, and why?"

Answer: Submission is a concept that seems to go against the grain of human nature, and yet we all see the need for it in certain aspects of life. Without submission, things quickly fall into chaos as everyone strives to be in charge. Even though it is sometimes mocked as a sign of weakness, submission is really one of the strongest pillars of a stable society. What does the Bible say about the parameters of submission?

First of all, we need a proper understanding of submission. The English word submit comes from a Latin root which means "to let down, reduce, or yield." It pictures kneeling before a superior. Even our modern language hints at its roots: to have a "submission" would mean to have a "secondary" mission that yields to a greater one. The New Testament Greek word is *hupotasso*, which means "to put under or arrange under." It is a military word that refers to lower-ranking soldiers arranging themselves under the orders of higher officers. Submission, then, comes from an acknowledgment of proper order and authority.

All authority comes from God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and we are commanded to submit to Him (James 4:7). The apostle Paul outlines a chain of authority in 1 Corinthians 11:3–12, reminding that woman was made from man and man was made by God. The full order of authority is God — Christ — Man — Woman. Again in Romans 11:36, we are told that all things are from God, through God, and to God, so He is the highest authority.

Jesus Himself recognized God's authority and was submissive to it. In John 4:34, Jesus said His purpose was "to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work," and in John 5:30, "I seek not to please myself but him who sent me." Jesus' entire life was one of submission to the Father, culminating with His great prayer of submission just before His death, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). If we will be disciples of Christ, we must submit to Christ's authority, just as He submitted to the Father's (Luke 6:46; 14:27).

This brings us to the more common question: to whom are we to submit, when, and why? The "why" is easy to answer—because God commands it, and He is the highest authority. First Peter 2:13–14 gives the general concept: "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." Since all authority comes from God, we are to submit to anyone who is placed in authority over us. In so doing, we submit to God. Likewise, to rebel against those in authority is tantamount to rebelling against God. That is one reason why Christians through the ages have allowed themselves to be martyred rather than take up arms against the State.

Wives are to submit to their own husbands as an act of reverence and worship to God (1 Peter 3:1–6). The example Peter gives of Sarah and Abraham points to a time when Abraham told her to lie in order to protect himself (Genesis 20:13). Even though it looked like she was putting herself in harm's way, she submitted, and God worked to protect her. Peter says this kind of submission will be used by God to win over a disobedient and faithless husband.

Young men are to submit to their elders (1 Peter 5:5), showing reverence for their age and wisdom. This is a carry-over from the command given to children in Deuteronomy 5:16—honor your father and your mother. Parents are entrusted with the responsibility to raise and train their children, and children are to honor and obey their parents. Obeying and honoring our elders, and recognizing they know more than we, sets the structure for a good society.

Christians are told to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21). This prevents selfish pride and fits well with the command to consider others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). If our purpose on this earth is to do the will of God, then submitting to someone else becomes an act of trust in God. We naturally look out for our best interests, but, if we trust God to take care of us, then we are free to take care of others.

Our service to our employers also fits into the submission framework. Ephesians 6:5–8 says we should obey our masters just as we would obey Christ, and to do it wholeheartedly, as if we were serving the Lord. The reason in verse 8 is that "you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free." Everything comes back to recognizing God's authority and control over our lives.

Even when a higher authority violates God's order, we can submit in a godly fashion. When the apostles were arrested for preaching about Jesus, they did not resist. However, when told to stop preaching Jesus, they replied, "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29). They appealed to a higher authority and continued to preach Jesus openly, even though it led to persecution. In some cases, they saw God bring miraculous deliverance. In others, God allowed martyrdom. In all cases, they rejoiced "because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" (Acts 5:41).

The Bible has many other things to say about submission, but these brief examples give the main idea. God is the supreme authority, and He has established earthly authorities. When we keep ourselves within that framework, God is pleased, and we are able to see Him work on our behalf.