

Getting Started

- Share a time when you found it difficult to submit to someone who was in a position of authority? Why?
- Identify examples of submission in the New Testament?
 - Luke 2:51
 - Luke 10:17
 - Romans 13:1, 5; Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:22
 - 1 Peter 3:22
 - 1 Corinthians 15:28
 - 1 Corinthians 16:15–16; 1 Peter 5:5
 - Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; Ephesians 5:22, 24
 - Ephesians 5:24
 - Titus 2:9; 1 Peter 2:18
 - Hebrews 12:9; James 4:7

Discussion

Because we are radically changed through Jesus this will cause us to respond in unthinkable ways in really hard situations. Peter highlights at least three areas in chapters 2+3. What does Peter state as the purpose of “being subject” to others in each of these relationships?

1. Government authorities (2:13-17)
2. Employer-Employee (2:18-25)
3. Marriage (3:1-7)

“Be subject to” or “be submissive” means: *being under authority; to line up under; voluntary selflessness.*

Foundational Principle: Submit one to another out of reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21)

Paul writes that every Spirit-filled Christian is to be a humble, submissive Christian. No believer is inherently superior to any other believer. In their standing before God, they are equal in every way (Gal 3:28). The Christian’s continual reverence for God is the basis for one’s submission to other believers.

Application in Marriage

- What does it mean for a wife to be submissive to the leadership of her husband within their marriage?
What is the biblical basis for this?
What would be excluded from this command for a wife to be submissive to her husband's leadership role?
- Based on 3:1-6, what is the most effective witness of a Christian woman to her husband?
Does this mean that the gospel should not be spoken by word at all to an unbelieving husband?
- List all the desirable qualities (from this passage) of a wife whose relationship to her husband is well pleasing to God.
Provide practical examples of what these look like in real life.
- Describe in practical ways how a husband is to live in relationship to his wife (3:7).
 - Husbands live with your wives in an understanding way
 - showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel
 - since they are heirs with you of the grace of life
 - so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- (Complimentary passage) Why do you think Paul reminds husbands to *love their wives* and wives to *respect their husbands* (Ephesians 5:22-33)? How would marriages be transformed if 1 Peter 3:1-7 and Ephesians 5:22-33 were lived out on a consistent basis?

Note: Here as elsewhere the New Testament authors couple their treatment of differences in roles of husband and wife with an implicit or explicit affirmation of their equality in status and importance (cf. 1 Cor. 11:2–3, 7–12; Eph. 5:22–33; Col. 3:18–19). Although some have argued that Paul abolished differences in role or authority when he affirmed that men and women are 'one in Christ Jesus' and both 'heirs according to promise' (Gal. 3:28–29), it is significant that here Peter sees no difficulty in affirming that wives are 'joint heirs' in a sense that includes subjection to their husbands' authority.

So concerned is God that Christian husbands live in an understanding and loving way with their wives, that he 'interrupts' his relationship with them when they are not doing so. No Christian husband should presume to think that any spiritual good will be accomplished by his life without an effective ministry of prayer. And no husband may expect an effective prayer life unless he lives with his wife 'in an understanding way, bestowing honor' on her. To take the time to develop and maintain a good marriage is God's will; it is serving God; it is a spiritual activity pleasing in his sight.¹

Prayer

¹ Grudem, W. A. (1988). [*1 Peter: an introduction and commentary*](#) (Vol. 17, p. 154). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.