



Sunday, August 23, 2020

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The **WEALTH** of the Believer (Ephesians 1:1-3:21)

II. The **WALK** of the Believer (Ephesians 4:1-6:9)

A. Walk **WORTHY**—Vertically before God (Ephesians 4:1-32)

B. Walk **WORTHY**—Horizontally toward Others (Ephesians 5:1-6:9)

The message of Paul’s letter to the saints in Ephesus can be simplified as LOOK UP, LOOK IN, and LOOK OUT. The first 3 chapters directs us to LOOK UPWARD and see God for Who He is and what He has done. Here in chapter 5 we are directed to LOOK OUTWARD and see others as God sees them.

CONTEXT: Paul is speaking about our INFLUENCE in our WORTHY WALK, HORIZONTALLY toward others.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1. Walk in **Ministry**, FULFILLING CHRIST’S **Purpose** for You (Eph 4:11-12)
2. Walk in **Love**, DISPLAYING CHRIST’S **Love** for You (Ephesians 5:1-2)
3. Walk in **Light** REFLECTING CHRIST’S **Light** in You (Ephesians 5:3-14)
4. Walk in **Step** with the Spirit, SUBMITTING to CHRIST’S **Spirit** in You (Ephesians 5:18-21)

5. Walk in **Submission**, SERVING OTHERS around You

“Submitting yourselves one to another ...” (Ephesians 5:21) – Biblical submission carries the idea of *willingly placing yourself under*. We are to place the **greatest needs** of others before our own.

“...in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:21) – It is a humility in submission toward God which results in gentleness toward others.

a. The Heart Posture is **Humility**

Biblical *submission* fights against pride. Pride DEMANDS ONE’S OWN WAY while HUMILITY GIVES WAY—it does not demand its own rights (1 Peter 5:5).

Let’s consider our influence of submissive ministry mindedness as it relates to governing authorities.



Do I see my ministry of influence in the way that I speak about our governing authorities?

Do I understand my ministry of influence in the way that I obey or protest laws set forth by those authorities?

The greatest testimony of influence is a transformed life—a life lived in humble submission to their Creator.

b. The Humble Process is **Obedience**

First and foremost: this humble process is a **God-ward** obedience. (See Acts 3-5)

Peter & John’s submissive ministry mindset was rooted in a deep and abiding love for God which motivated them to obedience as they pursued a **redemptive goal**.

i. Understand God’s **Sovereign** Rule

Proverbs 21:1 The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the **LORD**, *as* the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever **He** will [*wishes*].

Consider David’s prayer (1 Chronicles 29:11-12) and Daniel’s praise (Daniel 2:20-21).

Romans 13:1 b ... For there is no power but of [*except from*] **God**: the powers that be are ordained of [*arranged by*] **God**.

ii. Understand Your Submissive **Responsibility**

? What are my God-given responsibilities toward governing authorities?

a) **Pray** for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

? How much do you pray for the president, your state governor, congressmen and women, senators, and other state and local officials?

b) **Honor** those in authority (1 Peter 2:17)

c) **Submit** to those in authority (1 Peter 2:13-17)

Keep in mind our ministry is to “*fear the Lord.*” We are His servants—His *doulos*—we are to be submissive to the will of our Master, Jesus.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the **Lord’s** sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

? So how can we honor Christ in our submission to governing authorities?

1 Peter 2:15 For so is the will of **God**, that with well doing ye may put to silence [*muzzle*] the ignorance of foolish men:

In Romans 13:1-5 we see a similar thought.

d) **Render** to those in authority (Romans 13:6-7)

e) **Influence** those in authority (Matthew 5:13-16)

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your **Father** which is in heaven.



Our **WORTHY WALK** is marked by **SUBMISSIVE MINISTRY MINDEDNESS**. The humble process is obedience to God. **GOD SOVEREIGNLY RULES AND REIGNS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**. We are

to faithfully **PRAY** for those in authority over us; **HONOR** and **SUBMIT** to them; yet also seeking to be an **INFLUENCE** of “salt and light” to them, that God would be glorified.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!