



Sunday, September 6, 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

a. The Heart Posture is **Humility**

Consider our **redemptive 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?

b. The Humble Process is **Obedience**

We have the privilege of **redemptive influence** as God's image-bearers.

c. The Heavenly Purpose is **Redemptive Influence**

a) A **Redemptive Ministry Mindset** focuses on the Gospel's **Advance**

Advancing Christ's kingdom must be my **preeminent** mission.

Does a demand for my own right's advance Christ's kingdom?

Jesus' (cf. John 6:38, 40) and Paul's (Acts 20:24; Philippians 1:12) examples give us the **REDEMPTIVE GOAL** of this **submissive ministry mindedness**. It is the advancement of the Gospel.

b) A **Submissive Ministry Mindset** focuses on Gospel **Influence** (1 Peter 2:13-17)

Paul & Peter: They both command us to submit. The setting of these commands was that the "king" at that time was Nero, the most ruthless Roman Caesar.

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

Notice three key considerations that Peter gives us. Keep in mind...

1. The **Glory** of God (1 Peter 2:13-14)

1 Peter 2:13-14 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the **Lord's** sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; **14** Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him [*the king*] for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

Our submission to government authority is primarily a matter of God's glory.

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject [*hupotassō*] to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,



Am I honoring the testimony of my Savior in the way that I obey or disobey—or in the way that I speak about those in authority over us?

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of **God**.

2. The **Will** of God (1 Peter 2:15-16)

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

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants [*doulos*] of **God**.

We are to “submit to every ordinance of man” in submission to God.

3. The **Fear** of God (1 Peter 2:17)

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear **God**. Honour the king. Keep in mind our ministry of “*submitting to one another*” is in the “*fear of the Lord*” (Ephesians 5:21). We are His servants—His *doulos*—we are to be submissive to the will of our Master, Jesus. **We bow in submission to what we fear.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear **God**, and keep **His** commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Important distinction: A justifiable excuse to “*resist authority*” is because their laws command us to disobey God (Acts 5:29 “*Obey God rather than men*”)

Our **WORTHY WALK** is marked by **SUBMISSIVE MINISTRY MINDEDNESS**. We are called to have a **REDEMPITIVE MINISTRY MINDSET** that focuses on the Gospel’s Advance while having a **SUBMISSIVE MINISTRY MINDSET** which focuses on Gospel Influence. We must seek to do all to the **GLORY OF GOD**, as we seek to be obedient to the **WILL OF GOD**, all living in the **FEAR OF GOD**.

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

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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!