

**THE CHURCH ON OFFENSE IN
CONFLICTED DAYS
FALL/WINTER 2020/2021
“WALKING IN SUBMISSION AS JESUS DID”**

March 03, 2021

EPHESIANS 5:21-24 and other selected support Scriptures

I. PAUL'S PREPARATION OF THE EPHESIANS

- A. *He held back nothing that was PROFITABLE v. 20*
- B. *He testified that the gospel was about REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD and FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. That means that they would have to change their mind about who the Sovereign One was and put their trust in the Son of the Sovereign One, the Lord Jesus Christ v. 27*
- C. *He testified of the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD v. 24*
- D. *The main focus of his preaching was PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. v.25*
- E. *He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD.*

He trusted God with them, encouraging them to guard themselves against the FALSE TEACHERS and FALSE TEACHING that was going to come.

TONIGHT: We study the biblical doctrine of submission. It is one of the three “box cars” attached to the “locomotive” of being filled or completed with the Spirit or in the spirit of verse 18. The other two “box cars” are using psalms, spiritual songs and melodies to encourage other believers in Christ (a life characterized by praise of God) and the continuous giving of thanks in all things to God the Father through Jesus Christ, the Son of God found in verses 19-20. Uniquely, verses 22 through 6:9 form Paul's exegetical application of the Spirit-filled character transformation of willing submission.

II. THE DEMARCATING DIFFERENCE IN THE ONE WHO BELIEVES CHRIST AND THE ONE WHO DOES NOT IS THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

- A. *Sadly, that is not some sort of guarantee of a more ethical life*
 - 1. *History has revealed that Christians are still willful people who can and do make bad or even sinful decisions*
 - 2. *If listening to and obeying the wicked, self-willed, envious wisdom of the world rather than the voice of the Spirit-guided*

Word of God, the believer is no different in his application of that disastrous wisdom than an unbeliever

- 3. The Spirit does not force Himself on anyone as a general rule in order to make that individual believer or even a group of believers do the will of God*
 - 4. If starting from a false presupposition, the believer can and does make bad decisions in spite of having the Spirit resident in him.*
 - 5. Even though the Spirit has caused him to be a new creature, the habits of his former motivator (the old man) have not vanished but, like the people who were not driven out of Canaan during the taking of the Promised Land by Joshua, remain as “hornets” and obstacles to good growth in Christ. This is why Paul had put such emphasis on replacing the habits of the old man with those of the new man. That requires humble willing submission for it to happen. This is the second volitional act of the believer; the first was the willing submission to Christ as his Lord and Savior.*
- B. The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is given to the believing one for several reasons.*
- 1. To apply the cross and the empty tomb to the believer’s life ending the tyranny of sin and its wretched debt before God. Because of this great application of the work of Jesus in our behalf, the sinner’s debt is fully paid and his account is cleared with God. This is justification. Christ had taken the wrath of God reserved for and deserved by us and fully appeased it.*
 - 2. Jesus fully identified with the sinners He came to save. He became one of us; He is in union with us. He not only is going to die for us but He is going to live for us. Therefore the Spirit of God applies the life of obedient submission of Jesus to the Father that Jesus lived on earth prior to His death on the cross to each believer to make him the righteousness of God. His righteousness has become our righteousness.*
 - 3. Jesus resurrection had become the new born again life in us by the Spirit’s application of it in us. Because He lives so does that believer in this present life. It also is the guarantee of the believer’s future resurrection in that day!*
 - 4. The Spirit of God now lives in this cleansed vessel of the believer for the sake of Christ and the benefit of the one in whom He now lives. He is the believer’s comforter, guide,*

helper, power and completer. He will complete any action desired and begun by the believer seeking to please God. This completing act sanctifies the humble act of faith, humility and obedience as pleasing to God. It makes an act holy, complete, perfect, whereas before it was another human action whose value ended at its completion.

- 5. A person is “filled with the Spirit” when he commits to an act of faith, trust, humility moving in God’s direction and the Spirit joins that action to bring it to a completion.*
- C. The Holy Spirit is the sign of the believer’s ownership by God and God’s seal of His life forever.*
- D. Without this seal one perishes without God and is eternally lost. He is eternally dead unless he puts trust in Christ and is born again. Without the Holy Spirit no act of the unbelieving human being can be a justifying act. If he is not justified, neither can his actions be sanctified since practical sanctification follows positional sanctification which was the result of justification which was the result of regeneration.*
- E. Being filled with the Spirit is not an automatic act. It requires an act of humility (the acknowledgement of the inability to please God acting from self-centered, prideful, angry, vengeful, or envious attitudes to one of surrender to Him for acts that please Him), faith (complete trust in Him, seeking Him for who He is), and simple obedience (doing what He has said to do even if one does not understand fully why this act is pleasing). The Holy Spirit then moves to complete the action as an holy act pleasing to God.*

II. SUBMISSION IS A DEEP ACT OF HUMILITY, JOY AND FAITH

- A. Submission first is to God. This is the very foundation of the life of Christ. Everything He did was in full submission to the Father. It is done in joy of pleasing the Father; it is done selflessly since the greatest act of submission to the Father is always met with the goodness of God being showered on the one submitting. The pleasure of God is the greatest pleasure of every believer.*
- B. It is secondly submission to Christ as the Holy One of God; as the King of the whole cosmos, as the last king of the last kingdom; as the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior; as the Son of God; as the Son of man; as the Lord and LORD; as the Creator of all that can be seen and of all that is unseen as well as the Creator of all authority; as the One who was dead and now lives; as the*

Inheritor of all things and therefore the owner of all things; as the faithful witness; as the last Adam; as the reconciler and the peace of God

- C. *Both of these concepts are easy to grasp though, due to our twisted lives, not simple to perform. God the Father and God the Son are both conceivable as greater than us. We can grasp submitting to someone greater than ourselves, more powerful than ourselves or to someone frightening. We are even willing to submit to someone we admire.*
- D. *Verse 21 of our passage calls on us by the power of the Spirit to submit to those who are our equal or perhaps, in our own minds, even “lesser” in some way to ourselves! It says, “Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. (NKJV)*

Do you mean I am to submit to:

Some Christian “newbie” who is always asking questions? So annoying! Why can’t he just listen to Christian radio like all of us did? Besides, why do you think we have pastors?

My wife? She is totally uninterested in anything I am doing.

She doesn’t listen to me. We just do our own things.

Simpler that way. I do try to be really nice when I am wanting to buy a new toy. Does that count? How could I submit to her?

I have a horrible boss. You don’t mean him do you?

My children? Kids are to be seen and not heard! They have to do what I say and if not, I give them a good angry-like yell! They snap-to then! Besides, their heads are always blocked up with earphones or staring down at their tablet. How could I submit to them? Dad’s don’t submit to kids in this Christian stuff, do they?

My husband is not as spiritual as I am. He doesn’t read well or like to read. Spirituality is tied to reading the Bible. I am the better reader. I know I am really the one running the house. I like to let him think he does! (Heh, heh! He believes it!) Or is this like when I want something?? Do I have to submit to him?

I have some really sorry employees. I am glad I am in charge.

You’re not saying I have to submit to them are you? How?

My parents? They’re not cool and are always making me do stuff, especially stuff I don’t want to do!

The chairman of our committee is really slow and doesn't get anything done. Our meetings are a drag and I dread going to them. Do you mean I have to submit to his/her incompetence?

E. These and other human objections are understandable coming from people who still have some measure of self-protective armor on to keep from being less than the "master of their own fate" they believe they are.

1. It is easy to forget that we are not all that and a bag of chips ourselves!

2. The excuses that we can give for refusing to submit to those we do not wish to are all complaints to God about how unfairly He is treating us. We do not wish to follow the simple words of Jesus, "Except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, he cannot bear fruit." Or "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." In this we have failed in our submission to Christ! Failure to submit to Christ is failure to submit to God, the Father. Repent and think again what your salvation means. If submitting to someone you do not deem your equal or better is enough to eliminate eternal life to you, are you really grasping your salvation? Are you really understanding your need for the Savior? Worse, are you really even saved?

*F. Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. (NKJV)*

Breakdown:

Speaking to Spirit-filled wives: believers who want to please God as the number one priority of their lives

Not speaking to husbands about the club they can use to make the wife do what he wants done. Husbands, hands off this verse!

Stick to your own commands from Jesus and do them! Then if the beam in your eye being removed helps you see better, speak kindly to her and see if she wants your help!

Her submission to her husband is as if her husband was in Christ's place. Don't do it to please the husband but to please

the Christ who commanded it. Husbands can be wrong so do it to please the One who can't be wrong.

The husband is the one responsible for the wife as Christ is the one responsible for the church.

Just as the church submits to Christ, submit to your own husband.

This submission is joyful, willing submission that represents full mature faith in Christ!