



ALL IN in 2019

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IDENTIT ... Identify Relationships - Ephesians 5:21-6:9

What do you think about the word **submit**? How does it make you feel?

The fundamental posture of a believer toward God is **submission**.

This new identity we have in Christ is best lived in submission.

Here is the truth ...

Greek word for "submission," *hupotassō*, **always signals obedience to God-given authority**. Jesus submitted to the authority of His parents ([Luke 2:51](#)); the demons were subject to the disciples ([Luke 10:17](#)); citizens are subject to government authorities ([Rom. 13:1, 5](#)); the universe is subject to Christ ([1 Cor. 15:27](#); [Eph. 1:22](#)); Christ is subject to God the Father ([1 Cor. 15:28](#)). We could go on. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/submit-one-another/>

Divine **direction** begins with unconditional **submission**.

Six Spheres of Submission in Our Relationships

True strength lies in submission which permits one to dedicate his life, through devotion, to something beyond himself.

1. In our relationship with **God**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **Draw near to God,** and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, **you double-minded.**
James 4:7-8

God cannot be **understood** by logical reasoning but only by **submission**.
Leo Tolstoy

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. **Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?**
Hebrews 12:9

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, **they did not**

submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4

The essence of sin is **arrogance**; the essence of salvation is **submission**.
Alan Redpath

2. In our relationship with **government**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.
Romans 13:1-2

Be **subject** for the Lord's sake to **every human institution**, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For **this is the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
1 Peter 2:13-15

3. In our relationship with **each other**

... but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another** out of **reverence** for Christ.
Ephesians 5:18b-21

We cannot separate **vertical** devotion from **horizontal** love.

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by **His holiness**; the nourishment of mind with **His truth**; the purifying of imagination by **His Beauty**; the opening of the heart to **His love**; the surrender of will to **His purpose** - and all of this gathered up in **adoration**, the **most selfless emotion** of which our nature is capable and therefore the **chief remedy** for that **self-centeredness** which is **our original sin** and **the source of all actual sin**.
William Temple

The standard Greek-English lexicon renders *hupotassō* in 5:21 ...

Voluntary yielding in love.

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But **it shall not be so among you**. But **whoever would be great among you must be your servant**,

and **whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:42-45

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.
1 John 4:19-21

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**
Galatians 3:28

4. In our relationship as **husbands** and **wives**

Submission is not about authority and it is not obedience; it is all about relationships of **love** and **respect**.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the **husband** is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **Now** as the **church** submits to **Christ**, so also **wives** should submit in everything to their husbands.
Ephesians 5:22-24

No woman wants to be in submission to a man who isn't in submission to God!
T.D. Jakes

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
Ephesians 5:25-27

In the same way **husbands** should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
Ephesians 5:28-31

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you **love his wife** as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.
Ephesians 5:32-33

5. In our relationship as a **family**

Children, obey your **parents** in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”
Ephesians 6:1-3

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
Ephesians 6:4

6. In our relationship at **work**

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as **bondservants** of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will **as to the Lord and not to man**, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.
Ephesians 6:5-8

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men**, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.
Colossians 3:22-25

Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is **no partiality with him**.
Ephesians 6:9

Daily **submit** yourself fully to God and you will bring God's **light** and **love** to all of your relationships.