

THE ROOT OF CHARACTER: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Submission (Part 2)

Foundation Statement: People who walk in the fear of the Lord have submitted to God

I. We are to submit to God (James 4:7)

- A. Submit in the Greek is a military term that means "to rank under"
 - 1. To arrange troop divisions in a military fashion under the command of a leader
 - 2. To subordinate, obedient, be under, put under, be in subjection under,
 - 3. To submit one's self, subject one's self, submit to one's control, yield to one's admonition/advice
 - 4. A voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating
 - 5. NLT-Humble --- DARBY-Subject --- NCV-Give yourself completely to God --- CEV-Surrender to God -
-- NIRV-Obey God --- WE-Let God control you
- B. Submitting is a voluntary act of ur will 2 put yourself under the authority of another (1 Pt 5:6-8, Js 4:7)
 - 1. If you don't submit yourself to God then it won't happen; Literally put yourself under God in rank
 - a. In truth all of us are under God in rank, but until we make the decision of quality to put ourselves under him, we are running our own lives and in doing so we are declaring that we're in charge not God
 - 2. Submission is not forced, but it's an act motivated out of reverence and honor
 - a. Submission is not by the choice the submitted to, but out of honor and respect it's by the choice one who is submitting
 - b. There's no honor or reverence in forced submission b/c it's not done as an act of one's will
 - 1) Submission is reverent because nobody is making me do it, but out of honor and respect I'm submitting as an act of my own will because I honor you
 - c. Submission is reverent b/c I recognize u as my superior & out of that recognition I submit 2 you
- C. The idea is that it is very irreverent, disrespectful and dishonorable to not submit to those in authority or ranked over you
 - 1. It's a dishonorable thing when one doesn't submit to those who are in authority over them
 - a. If we are going to be people who fear the Lord, who honor Him, who reverence Him then that includes us taking our rightful place under him
 - b. It's irreverent when u start telling God what you're going to do acting like you're above him
 - 2. Numbers 16 – Not submitting is a serious thing to God
 - a. 3-They're asking Moses who put you in charge. God did

- b. 9-10-God gave them their position of rank, but they wanted to exalt themselves instead of submitting
- c. 11-MSG-It's God you've ganged up against not us
- d. 12-Moses, their authority, sent for them and they would not come
- e. Proverbs 18:12 – Pride and rebellion vs. Humility and submission
- f. By not reverencing and submitting to the one who God chose they weren't reverencing and submitting to God (John 13:20)

II. Understanding rank is key submitting

- A. It's important that we understand, recognize, and acknowledge rank
 - 1. In submission we must understand rank
 - a. People haven't submitted, because they haven't yet acknowledged the reality of those in rank above them
 - b. John 14:28 – Jesus understood rank
 - c. John 1:15, 30 (AMP) – John the Baptist understood it
 - 2. In submission we must recognize rank
 - a. Hebrews 2:10 – Jesus is the captain of our salvation
 - 1) Captain – Chief Leader (Commander and Chief)
 - 2) 2 Timothy 2:1-3 – We are soldiers in the army of God
 - 3) Evidence that you have put yourself under God is obedience (Mt 8:9)
 - b. There's rank in the Kingdom (Hebrews 13:7,17)
 - 1) We're all in the family of God and one does not have more right to be saved, healed, delivered, prosper, or blessed more than another, but in Kingdom service there's rank.
 - 3. In submission we must acknowledging rank
 - a. EX: Rebellion manifests when children don't want to acknowledge that they have parents. They think that they don't have to ask their parents before they do something and their acting like they don't have parents
 - b. Acting like you don't have anybody over you and acting like you're your own boss is the nature of the devil himself
 - 1) God made the anointed cherub and he had somebody over him and he had no business saying I'll will exalt myself above the most high and he's trying to act like he's his own boss
 - c. Jesus had somebody higher than him in rank and you have somebody higher than you in rank (1 Corinthians 11:3)
 - 1) You're not your own boss and you got somebody that you need to check in with
- B. It's important that we keep rank (1 Chronicles 12:33,38)

1. Keep rank means you submit to those over and you don't submit to those under you
 - a. You submit to God and you don't submit to the devil
 - b. Pastors don't submit to their congregation
2. Jesus said you're calling me Lord, but you're not keeping rank (Luke 6:46)
 - a. Lord – Controller, master, supreme in authority, chief; he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence
 - b. You're calling me Lord, Master, supreme in authority, but in reality I'm not to you because you don't do what I say and apparently you are your own Lord, your own Master, your own supreme in authority because you're doing what you want not what I want
 - c. If you've recognized rank obedience should follow
 - 1) Rebellion & disobedience scream that ur in charge of your own life & above God in rank
- C. In submission we must forfeit rank and take our rightful position of rank under God. Until you forfeit rank you still hold rank because God's not going to make you submit.
 1. Jesus forfeited rank
 - a. John 5:16 – I can only do what I see the Father do
 - b. John 5:30 – I can of my own self do nothing
 - c. John 8:26,28 – I don't do or say what I want to say, but I say what he tells me to say
 - d. John 12:49 – I say what I'm told to day
 - e. John 14:31 – I do what I'm told to do
 2. When you forfeit rank you understand:
 - a. You don't pick what you want to say
 - b. You don't pick what you want to think
 - c. You don't pick what you want to do
 3. When you've forfeited rank and you're walking in the reverence toward you God you have no desire to please yourself and what fulfills you is pleasing the Master (John 5:30 AMP, John 4:34)
 - a. Adonai – Master and Bondservant

III. Submission

- A. Submission is not easy
 1. You can suffer being tempted (Hebrews 2:18)
 - a. The temptation is always to do it *YOUR* way and not God's
 - b. The suffering is not getting to do it your way
 2. This is the ultimate example of submission here in the garden with Jesus; This was not easy (Luke 22:40, Hebrews 5:6-8)
- B. Submission is not agreement

1. Jesus' prayer was not MY will, but YOUR will be done – Submission is not agreement
 - a. At this point Jesus' will wasn't the same as the Father's will
 - b. He basically said no matter how I feel about it & no matter how bad my flesh doesn't want to do it I'll do it
2. You only have the opportunity to truly submit when you don't agree
 - a. As long as u want 2 do what the person over u wants u 2 do that's agreement not submission
- C. There is no other way to grow up and mature than this; submitting and obeying when you don't want to (1 Peter 5:10)
 1. Jesus learned obedience by not getting to do what he wanted to do, but by yielding to the one over him (Hebrews 5:8)
 2. True submission involves suffering not getting to do it your way
 - a. You suffered being tempted to rebel or be disobedient and if you just yield to the rebellion you're not suffering. When you stop yielding to rebellion here comes the suffering
 3. The results of suffering is perfection, Christlikeness, maturity, & u are more of an asset to the KOG
 - a. Many people haven't been promoted b/c they are weak and they haven't passed the test
 - b. After you suffered a while you'll be perfected, strengthened, established, settled and somebody that the can be depended on

IV. Results of submission

- A. Resist the devil and he'll flee (James 4:7)
 1. Some believers aren't even qualified to resist the devil because they won't submit to God
 2. Submission to God comes before our authority in God
 - a. If you're yielding to the enemy he doesn't have to submit to you
 - b. When you're submitting to God you're giving God his place over you, you take your place under him and then you command and insist that the devil take his place under you
- B. The more we submit to him the more exalted we will be (1 Pt 5:6, Luke 14:11)