

Submission to Authority - Lesson

Lesson summary: One of the most difficult areas for us to grow is in submission to the authority of God.

ROMANS 13:1 (NIV)

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

- **Question for you to answer: Are you God, or not?**
 - If not, then why do most of us spend so much time acting like we are?
 - Like thinking everyone is there to serve you and your purposes.
- When you are immature, your attitude is that of the world revolving around you.
- The opposite of that is living in a reality where everything is not centered around your desires, but the greater things, and you exist to contribute to them.
- It is ultimately about those things that are bigger than us, like God, and His will.
- Learning submission is learning to find your place in God's kingdom, His purposes.

Illustration of the boy in class who is standing and is told to sit down over and over, and finally does so, but says, "I am still standing up on the inside."

- **External submission** is obeying externally what the Bible says, and what leaders over you say.
- **Internal submission** is surrendering your will in that situation and acknowledging that they are over you and have the right to ask you to do those things.
 - You can be obeying all the rules, and inside never submit to God.
 - The difference is between "being *able* to bow to Him, and being *willing* to bow."
- We learn to submit to God by submitting to human leaders.
 - Our lack of submission expresses itself unexpectedly when under stress.
- David learned to submit to God by submitting to the leadership over him when Saul was chasing him and trying to kill him and he refused to speak against him or hurt him
 - Many years later, when David was caught in the sin with Bathsheba, what saved him was his reaction and submission to a humiliating rebuke.
- The opposite of submission is self-centeredness.
- If you value yourself more than anything else, when there is an internal conflict, you will make sure self always wins.
- We need to come to a place that we exist to serve God, who is bigger than we are.

HEBREWS 5:8 (NIV)

Although he was a son, he **learned obedience** from what he suffered.

Jesus Himself learned submission through suffering unjustly.

It's not all about your comfort! It's about growth and trusting God, not your personal pleasure. God wants you to submit to Him because you want to.

Integrity, by Henry Cloud, p.244-245