

Submission

Philippians 2:1-8 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

Consolation – same as “Comforter” – if you have HG, act like this!

2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

“**strife**” – “**push for personal preference**”
“**vainglory**” – “**pursuit for personal glory**”
“**better**” – “**held above**”

4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Don’t be obsessed with your own advantage – forget yourself!

5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

soul has power to choose, feel and reason – if we have Christ’s mind we make His choices, feel His feelings, understand His logic

6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

“**form**” – “**possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God**” (AMP) – that’s why several of the modern Bible translations say ... “**though he was God**” (NLT), “**Christ was truly God**” (CEV)

7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

no reputation – “emptied himself”

8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Humbled himself – incarnation would have been humbling enough!

Jesus’ divinity is strong in this passage, but the main point here is not His divinity, it is what He did with all that power for our sake!

Paul uses the great condescension of the incarnation to teach us that if we have the mind of Christ we will live in MUTUAL SUBMISSION. This is God’s system of checks and balances in the Apostolic church.

Eph. 6:1 – Children, obey your parents in the Lord

Eph. 6:4 – Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath

Eph. 6:5 – Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters

Eph. 6:9 – Ye masters, do the same things unto them

Eph. 5:22 – Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands

Eph. 5:25 – Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ

Eph. 5:21 – Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God

Submission has to occur in an environment of MUTUAL SUBMISSION.

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. (26) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; (27) And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Submission is not like a LINE (“top down”), but like a WEB.

SUB-MISSION = your mission under someone else’s mission

You can’t submit when you agree! Agreement is powerful, but submission is even more powerful!

Steve Willoughby: “When you have respect for the ministry, it is not hard to follow instructions. Respect and awe makes serving easy.”

Billy Cole: “You cannot minister to people beyond the level of respect they have for you.”

It is easier to submit when you know you are out of your league.

But it is quite difficult when you don’t see yourself as needing instruction. Especially if you have had some success, it can be difficult to be a “student” of someone younger or having less stature or status.

Great leaders know how to lead and how to follow – they do a lot of both!

Others are more willing to submit to you when YOU are submitted!

How does the example of servanthood, humility and submission modeled by Jesus Christ find practical expression in the day-to-day responsibilities of pastoring? How do you exercise the seemingly opposite dynamics of leadership and submission at the same time?

What do you do when you're the most powerful person in the room? You stoop to wash feet! If we don't do this, we are making a public declaration that we are greater than our Master!

John 13:13-16 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. (14) If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. (16) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

George Washington was the man who established the American republic. He led the revolutionary army against the British Empire and he served as the first president of the United States.

In an era of brilliant men, Washington was not the deepest thinker. He never wrote a book or even a long essay, unlike George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams. But Washington incarnated the ideals of the Republic in his own person.

Think about other great military commanders and revolutionary leaders before and after Washington—Caesar, Cromwell, Napoleon, Lenin. They all seized power they had won and held it until death or military defeat.

Washington abhorred the idea of kingship, even for himself. The writer Garry Wills called him “a virtuoso of resignations.” Joseph Ellis, in “Founding Brothers,” states that Washington could be trusted with power precisely because he was so ready to give it up.

He gave up power not once but twice – at the end of the revolutionary war, when he resigned his military commission and returned to Mount Vernon, and again at the end of his second term as president, when he refused entreaties to seek a third term.

Give the last word to Washington's great adversary, King George III. The king asked his American painter, Benjamin West, what Washington would do after winning independence. West replied, “They say he will return to his farm.” “If he does that,” the incredulous monarch said, “he will be the greatest man in the world.”

What do you do when you're the most powerful person in the room?

What is the most important lesson you've learned about having the mind of Christ in leading a ministry team?

Was it mostly you that had to change or the team members that had to change in order for your team to mature in their ministry together?

- Opposites attract – then opposites attack!
- Four personality types
- Four generations – Builders, Boomers, Busters, Bridgers
- Speed of the leader, speed of the team – “go slower to go faster”
- Succession – “no success without a successor”
- I am still in awe of the people God allows me to serve with
- I had the most changing to do, because the leader has to go first!

In 2010, for the first time Millennials (born 1980–1995, age 16–31) outnumbered Baby Boomers (born 1946–1964, age 47–65). And beginning January 1, 2011 ten thousand Baby Boomers will reach retirement age every single day in the United States. We are in desperate need of secure leaders who will pass the baton while they are still around to be in the cheering section!

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, **your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:**

Acts 2:16-17 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, **and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:**

Joel said that in the last days revival, the role of the older generation will be DIFFERENT than the role of the younger generation (not less important, just different!). And Peter REVERSED the prophecy to show that when the promise is fulfilled the vision of the young will step to the forefront, supported by the dreams of the elders.

- **DREAM:** Hebrew CHALAM, which means “to restore to health, to be strong, to be healthy” (DREAMS HAVE TO DO WITH THE PAST) – **our dream is our MESSAGE, which has to “stay strong”**
- **VISION:** Hebrews CHAZAH, which means “to perceive with the intelligence, to see by experience” (VISIONS HAVE TO DO WITH THE FUTURE) – **our vision is our METHOD, which “perceives”**

| DAVID | SOLOMON |
|---|--|
| Was a DREAMER who took a group of people who had been ruled by Saul and fashioned them into a HEALTHY kingdom | Was a VISIONARY who took an already healthy kingdom and wisely PERCEIVED how to make it an even more influential kingdom |
| A man of war | A man of peace |
| David was known for WORSHIP (experience was the critical element in his day) | Solomon was known for WISDOM (knowledge was the critical element in his day) |
| David battled the house of Saul (manmade religion) to establish his kingdom | Solomon battled Adonijah (a rebellious brother not willing to follow the will of his father David) |

David's kingdom achieved its golden age under Solomon's rule, but there wouldn't have been a Solomon with a David!