

## Insights into Mutually Submitting

Ephesians 5: 21-25

10/27/02

### Intro

- Progress at the building.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped at the building.

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In these verses Paul is telling us some of the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Many people may be surprised to see just how practical the filling of the Holy Spirit truly is. The emphasis here is on relationships; that is to say that the filling of the Holy Spirit is the most important aspect of relationships.

The important insight we see there is that the Lord can be, and should be, a part of all relationships; see verses 21, 22, 25, 6:1, 6:5, and 6:9.

In verse 21 Paul tells about a principle that is the key to all relationships. He says, “**Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**” Paul begins by giving us the general principle that applies to all relationships.

Today, I would like to look deeper into this general principle before we look at the specific relationships where this is applied.

### **I. The principle of submission applies to all people.**

A. Because we are submitted to God first, we can have an attitude of submitting; even in leading.

- Even the King of Israel was to be submitted first to God.

**Illus – Deut 17:18-20. When Israel had a king, he was to write for himself a copy of the Law of God.**

### B. This principle applies to all in authority.

- Jesus addressed this when He said these famous words

### **Illus – Mark 10:40-45**

- This applies then to employers, husbands, wives, older siblings, etc.

### **Illus – I’ve had several bosses who did not understand this principle.**

- Anyone who is arrogant, prideful, or abusive is not in submission to God.

## **II. Submitting to God first has several results.**

A. We can know what to do when there is a conflict in submitting.

- There will be times when there is a conflict in the law.

### **Illus – Running red lights...**

### **Illus- Nuremburg trials...**

- There are times when there will be a conflict with God’s Word...

### **Illus- The Disciples had to listen to God rather than to men. Acts 5:17-41**

B. We can know what to do when we don't agree with the one we find ourselves under.

- If that person is asking us to do something in conflict with God's Word, then we must submit to God first.
- If we just don't agree, then we can trust God with the issue.

**Illus- Mr. M. and the way he ran the restaurant.**

C. If we are submitted to God, then that thing inside of us that resists authority is being tempered.

- There is something inside all of us that resists authority. Some people grow past it, and some people never do.
- But there will be a day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess... so why wait.

### **III. The submitting process is used by God.**

A. It refines our character.

- We are refined by the challenges we face.
- The refining fire makes for stronger metal.

**Illus – The steel of a sword must be heated and beaten, but the result is a sword that will not easily break nor rust.**

B. It gives us character qualities we need in life.

- Teachability.

**Illus – Painting the new building.**

- **Humility.**
- **Grace.**
- **Kindness.**

Conclusion

**There is a place of submission for all people. It is a principle that affects all relationships and if we can be wise, we will see the result in godly, fulfilling relationships.**