



11/14/2012
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What is the Purpose of Submission? (Part Two)

Last week, as we opened up our study on submission, we did so by admitting that we don't like to submit! As we studied the mind of God on submission, we understood that submission is not an option. Here is the definition of submission that was introduced:

"Biblical submission is the core attitude of the Christian faith that sees God as completely in control, and seeks to orient all priorities under that one magnificent truth."

Today, as we wrap up our study on submission, I would like us to do so along two primary lines of thought. These will be our two concluding questions.

Concluding Question #1: What is biblical submission to _____? (I Corinthians 8)

Last week, we considered Ephesians 5:21 and Romans 12:10, which helped us to understand the _____ for submission to others, but what is it? Let's consider I Corinthians 8, and understand that there are two groups of people represented. Paul doesn't agree with either group:

- _____: There are no "gray" areas. All areas are "black."
- _____: Whatever the Bible does not explicitly forbid is acceptable.

1. **The _____:** There was a specific, historical dilemma. Was it allowable for Christians to eat meat sacrificed to idols?

Most Christians said it was fine!

- We know it's not _____. (v. 1)
- We know that idols aren't _____. (v. 4)

- We know that food doesn't affect our spiritual standing (v. 8)

Some Christians said that it was sin. (v. 7b)

The real issue: *Is it ok to do something that is not _____, when other Christians believe that it is sinful, and could not do it in good _____?*

2. The _____

- Love must control our _____ (v. 1-3)
- Love must compel us to _____ (v. 4-13)
- Seizing your liberties must never cause another Christian to violate his _____ (v. 9-12)
- This does not mean that we must never do that which "offends," or violates the _____ of another brother.

3. The _____¹

- Be _____ for the knowledge that you have - not proud.
- Seek to lovingly _____ those around you.
- Never insist that others follow your personal _____.
- Never do that which violates your _____.
- Never encourage a brother to violate his conscience.
- Always be willing to give up your _____ for a brother.
- Only _____ a brother about a sin, when it is a sin.

Concluding Question #2: Why is biblical submission so important?

1. **Without submission, you cannot have _____.**
(James 4:1)

2. **Without submission, you cannot follow _____.** (Phil. 2:5-9)

¹ Conclusions adapted from the notes of Dr. Greg Mazak on this passage in his graduate class, "Counseling." Used here with his permission.

