

Better Together

*EXPLORING REAL WAYS
TO LIVE IN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY*

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STUDY GUIDE
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SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER // 1 Peter 5:5

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The Greek word for “submit” is used some 40 times in the New Testament. It literally means, “to be under an appointment or station,” and is translated as: “to arrange under, to subject oneself to.”

When used as a military term it meant “to arrange in a military fashion under the command of a leader.” In non-military use, it was “a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”

In Ephesians 5, Paul instructs the community how to “live as children of light,” not darkness. “Be careful,” Paul says “how you live.” Then Paul uses the negative example of drunkenness to compare and contrast a positive example of people controlled by the Spirit. Paul says “live so totally given over to the Spirit that the Spirit’s control of your life and deeds are obvious,” just like too much wine would control a person who is drunk.

Spirit-fullness impacts our worship and our relationships.

- Submission assumes the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Submission surrenders the self to Christ.
- Submission is a mutual/communal attitude and action.
- Submission is giving up control.

PRAY:

Ask God to reveal something meaningful through this time of reflection.

READ:

Offer your full care and attention to reading the provided scripture passages.

DISCOVER:

Ephesians 5:21-25 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.

1 Peter 5:5-7 Young ones, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.



DISCOVER, CONTINUED:

- 1) According to Ephesians 5:21 and 5:25, why are we to submit and to love?
- 2) What is the relationship between submission and love?
- 3) Paul uses marriage as a metaphor for the church. Christ is our example. Note from the verses what Christ has done for the church. What does this tell you about what God desires for our relationships in the church?
- 4) Submission is a mutuality command – all are to submit to one another. This means spouses to each other; parents to children; and leaders to followers as well as the opposite. How does mutual submission alter our understanding of submission only relating to authority over another?
- 5) Read I Peter 5:5-7. What is the relationship between submission and humility?
- 6) Reflect on what submission does NOT mean. What are the limits of submission? For instance:
 - Submission is faithfulness, not co-dependency
 - Submission is about duty, not rights
 - Submission is about commitment, not blind obedience
- 7) What is it about us that resists the idea of submission?
- 8) What is one specific step you/we can take to help our congregation submit to one another?

