

A Man of God...

is a man of submission

"Abandon outcomes to God." - Dallas Willard

Key Verses:

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:30

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

- Matthew 26:39

Key Terms:

Submission:

The action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person.

Yoke:

A yoke was a harness used by oxen and other animals to ease the work of hauling a load. It was also meant as a designation of servitude and carrying the burden of a task or mission. In ancient culture, the word yoke was a term that was used to describe submission. When someone was described as being yoked to someone or something, it was communicating the idea that he or she was in submission to that person or thing.

Teaching Outline

Introduction:

As men of God, we are called to submit to God. It is impossible for us as men to accomplish what we need under our own power. So, as men of God we are called to submit to God and abandon control and our desired outcomes to Him. When we take on his yoke and submit to Jesus, we will find that the heavy burden of feeling like we need to be in control of our kingdoms is lifted.

When we give up control, trust God and abandon the outcome of circumstances to Him, we not only experience contentment but we also participate in accomplishing God's will in our world.

Teaching:

Jesus, our example of submission:

In the Garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus was coming to the end of his earthly life, he prayed a prayer of submission to the Father, "not as I will but as you will." With these words, Jesus teaches us two things about submission.

First, submission happens in the context of relationships. Jesus addressed God as Father, indicating that this was not an impersonal relationship. Rather, Jesus was communing with the Father who loves the Son and is well pleased with him. Our lives as men reflect this same principle. When we choose to submit to God, we are not submitting to a nameless and distant power. We are submitting to our Heavenly Father whom we love and who loves us. We are submitting to a Dad who knows what is best for his child.

The second thing Jesus teaches us from this Garden prayer is that submission is hard. The gospel of Luke records that Jesus anguised through this garden prayer and sweat drops like blood (Luke 22:44). It is under extreme pressure that Jesus submits Himself to the will of the Father, giving us the example that submission is necessary, even when it is going to be hard.

In Jesus, we see a picture for our own submission to God. It is a picture of trust by giving up control and the heavy burden of self-rule. Rather than choosing our own experiences and intellect, we submit to live by God's rule and attach ourselves to his yoke. It is easy and light!

The Practice of Submission:

Like it is with most things in life, submission doesn't happen naturally. It is something that we have to work towards as we abandon outcomes to God. Below are some practical steps:

1. Start each day by submitting your day to God. "Father, into your hands I submit to you my day."
2. Instead of trying to control the outcome of circumstance; submit the outcome to God and trust that he has the best in mind for you.
3. Be patient! God's will may be different than yours and his timing different than yours. As you submit to him, be willing to wait on Him.

Table Time:

1. What are your feelings about submission?
2. What do you mean when you pray, "your will be done"?
3. What is your Gethsemane, a place where you need to submit to God's will even though it will be hard?
4. What have you found helpful in submitting to God?