

5. Read 1 Timothy 6:1. What reason does this passage give for a slave to be in submission to his master?

Do you think this reason could apply to any relationship where submission to authority is involved? Why, or why not?

6. What practical steps could you take to be more submissive to the legitimate godly authority to which you are called to submit?

7. Give some biblical examples of where godly authority was resisted. What was the outcome?

- I. C. 1. Wisdom, Holy Spirit, honoring.
- II. A. Blind, any.
- II. B. Voluntary, godly.



## Lesson 21: Wisdom & Relationships: The Mark of Godly Living

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 5:21 | May 23-24, 2009

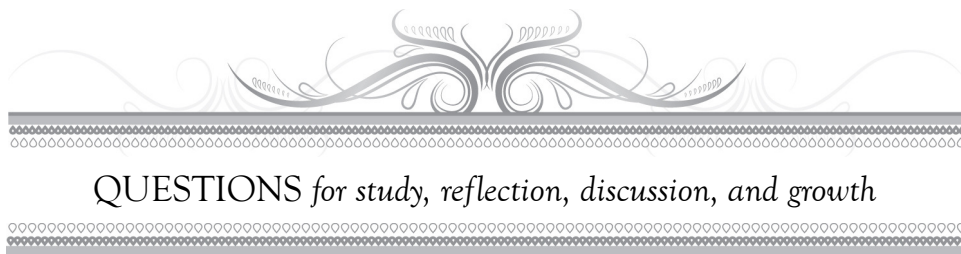
*... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (ESV)*

Authority and submission are “dirty” words in our day and age. In fact most of us would far rather question authority than submit to it. Yet according to Paul’s instructions to the Ephesians, submission to godly authority is evidence that we are filled with God’s Holy Spirit and that we are walking in wisdom! Not only this, but mutual submission (as well as specific cases of submission) is the key to healthy relationships. In our lesson this week, we are going to consider just one verse of Scripture, Ephesians 5:21. In this one verse is one of the most counter-cultural subjects we could ever address: the biblical case for submission. Hang on to your hat and fasten your seat belt; this could be a wild ride and a challenging message!

### I. Setting the Table to Talk About Submission.

#### A. The need for biblical submission.

1. A culture of rights and entitlement.
2. A culture of self-assertion.
3. A culture of pride and defiance.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

4. How far have we fallen?

B. The context for biblical submission (Ephesians 5:15, 18, 21).

C. The motivation for biblical submission (Ephesians 5:21).

- 1. Those who submit to godly authority give evidence that they are walking in \_\_\_\_\_, filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ.

II. The Definition of Biblical Submission.

A. Biblical submission is not a \_\_\_\_\_ consent to \_\_\_\_\_ authority.

B. Biblical submission is a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ authority.

III. The Order of Biblical Submission.

A. Wives to husbands.

B. Children to parents.

C. Slaves to masters (employees to employers).

D. Citizens to ruling authorities (Romans 13:1-7).

E. Church members to pastors and leaders (Hebrews 13:17).

IV. The Supreme Example of Biblical Submission (Philippians 2:3-8).

V. Living the Beautiful Life.

“Blessed are the meek . . .”

“ . . . in honor preferring one another.”

- 1. Read Ephesians 5:15-6:9, Colossians 3:18-4:1, 1 Peter 3:1-8, Romans 13:1-7, Hebrews 13:17, and 1 Corinthians 16:15-16.
- 2. From reading the above passages (which is far from a complete list) are you surprised at the number of times the Scripture calls upon people to live in humble submission? Why, or why not?

Is there any person that is not under at least some kind of authority?

- 3. Why do you think so many people are repulsed or even hostile to the idea of submission?

Do you think there are any specific factors for those of us who live in America that predispose us to resist the notion of submission? If so, what might some of these things be?