

Doctrine of Submission

1. Much religious controversy arises over the matter of ultimate authority and control. The state wants to tell the church what to do and the church wants to tell the state what it can or cannot do. Inside the church, the most controversial issues have as their root cause the matter of authority. Various church boards want to control the actions of the pastor and many pastors want to dictate to the boards what is to be done.
2. The divine solution to the controversy is found in the biblical Doctrine of Submission.
3. Christians are to seek to do thing for others rather than to seek for others to do something for them. The household of Stephanas is set forth as an example. And so the apostle says, “*Submit yourselves unto such, and to everyone that helpeth with us, and laboureth.*” Like Epaphroditus, they made themselves of no reputation that they might bless other people.
 - *1 Corinthians 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.*
4. Christian wives are to submit themselves unto their own husbands, as unto the Lord.
 - *Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*
 - *Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.*
5. People in a local assembly are to submit themselves to the Elders of the church.
 - *Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*
6. Mostly importantly, Christians are to submit themselves to the known will of God.
 - *James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
7. Christians are to respect divinely instituted authority and obey civil authorities.
 - *1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;*
8. All Christians are to be submissive one to another.
 - *1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*