

"The Power and Necessity of Submission: Why Submit to the Pastor/Elders?"

Hebrews 13:7,17; Acts 20:24-31; 1 Peter 5:2-4

"God mediates His earthly rule in our lives, both in the secular and spiritual, through various men. Spiritually, God rules His church through godly men. Submission to leaders placed by God is submission to God."

(John MacArthur)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect (*know them and care for them*) those who labor (*exhausting effort*) among you and are over you in the Lord (*appointed by God*) and admonish (*to correct people for transformation*) you, and to esteem them very highly (*honor and respect*) in love (*sacrificial service*) because of their work (*preaching, praying, and living*). Be at peace among yourselves (*submit to God's Word*)."

(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

"Let the elders who rule well (*authority, shepherding, maturity, with excellence*) be considered worthy of double honor (*financial and respect*), especially those who labor (*fatigue and exhaustion*) in preaching (*a passionate response to God*) and teaching (*refuting false teaching and educating in biblical doctrine*)."

(1 Timothy 5:17)

"Obey your leaders (*lead in love and humility*) and submit (*in love and humility*) to them (*as they direct, lead, teach, preach, counsel, and deal with sin*), for they are keeping watch over your souls (*burdened for your maturity*), as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you (*by not grieving the Holy Spirit*). Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things." (Hebrews 13:17-18)

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone (*about the consequences of sin*) and teaching everyone (*the truths of God's Word*) with all wisdom (*walking out the Word*), that we may present everyone mature in Christ (*Goal of all ministry*). For this I toil (*to reach the point of exhaustion*), struggling (*agonizing with full effort*) with all His energy that He powerfully works within me (*by God's power for God's glory*)." (Colossians 1:28-29)

- The Power and Necessity of Submission:

- Elders (shepherds/teachers) are a gift from God, to equip the flock to do ministry and to grow into maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- The Holy Spirit assigns sheep to shepherds or shepherds to sheep for His great purposes (Acts 20:28). *"For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* (Romans 13:1b)
- Obedience to what the Elders have taught you will lead to temporal and eternal joy for the Elders and for you (1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:6-9; Philippians 4:1). *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."* (3 John 1:4)
- Our submission is out of reverence for Christ not because of the perfection of the leadership. A submissive, humble heart is always pleasing to God. (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5-6; 1 Peter 2:18-19) *"Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."* (Colossians 4:1).
- Because of our natural disposition to be rebellious towards authority, God in His grace has given us authority in every aspect of life to submit to; bosses, husbands, parents, elders, Government. (Titus 3:1-10).

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** TODAY is the last day that we are collecting monetary donations for HeartCry Missionary Society. For more information about HeartCry, please see the board in the back of the sanctuary! There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also donate through Venmo, please be sure to note that the donation is for HeartCry!

★**EASTER SERVICES:** Mark your calendars — ***we will NOT be having a worship service NEXT Thursday, April 6th***

- Friday, April 7th → Good Friday Service at 6:30pm ➤ Communion and Fellowship Dinner

- Sunday, April 9th → Easter Sunday Service at 5:30pm

- * These are wonderful opportunities to invite friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to hear the gospel of Christ proclaimed.

- * *There will be NO children's ministry offered during the Good Friday Service and the Easter Sunday Service.*

The nursing room at the back of the sanctuary is available if needed.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Friday, April 7th, immediately following the Good Friday Service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner.

EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**BAPTISMS:** Our next baptism service will be THIS Sunday, April 2nd. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please see Pastor Jeremy or one of the Elders!