



the prepwork

Submission

MAIN THING

Submission is laying down the terrible burden of having to have our own way.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:5-14, Philippians 2:3-8, Romans 12:18

ICEBREAKER

How good are you at letting someone else be in control? Is there some form of prerequisite for someone to be in charge, if it isn't you?

OPENING THOUGHT

Practicing the discipline of submission affects us in two relationships- our relationship with God and our relationships with people. In our relationship with God, we cease the hostility between God and ourselves- the ongoing battle between our will and God's will. We are at peace with God, we recognize our true place and allow God to be God and ourselves to be human. In our relationships with people, we cease the destructive drive to force our will on people, to control people, to have our own way. We are free to value people- their successes are our successes, their joys our joys, their pain our pain, their good fortune is our good fortune.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Read Romans 8:5-14 as a group. Submission to God is vital to the Church. Why is that? What is the barrier to submission to God? Is it possible to be "of the flesh" and still be submissive? What are some of the things that hold people back from going all-in on their relationship with God?
3. Philippians 2:3-8 tells us how to treat each other. How are we to value each other? What is the model for this? How does that model perfectly show us the way to be submissive? Why is this so hard for most people to take hold of? What holds us back?

LIFE APPLICATION

There is one constant about the teachings of Christ. He wants to quit worrying about other people's actions and focus, instead, on you. Romans 12:18 teaches us that we are to be responsible for promoting peace through our lives, regardless of what others do. How are you at that? Do you promote peace with how you live your life? Are you submissive to authorities? Your spouse? Your friends and family? Learning submission is learning freedom. When no one cares who gets the credit, it's amazing how many of life's troubles, frustrations, and fights would disappear. This week, do everything in YOUR power to live at peace with everyone, as far as it depends on YOU.

CHALLENGE

Whenever a group of adults get together, there will always be a tension. Sometimes, that tension is small and barely noticeable. Other times, it's so thick, you can cut it with a knife. If there was ever a place where you could really practice submission, it would be in your community group. Decisions over where to meet, what time to meet, and what will you eat all can be met with adversity. Be sure to always remember Philippians 2:3-8, and be submissive to one another in the way that Christ was submissive to God...even unto a death on the cross. The relationships within your group will always be more important than your need to get what you want.