

# ***“Prescription for Submission”***

## **Holiness**

*“Be subject for the Lord's sake ... living as servants of God.”*

1 Peter 2:13-16

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### **1. Review of submission:**

#### **a. To each other in the Body:**

- i. “... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21.
- ii. “Wives, be subject to your own husbands ...” 1 Peter 3:1. Also Eph 5:22, Colossians 3:18.

#### **b. To civil authorities:**

- i. “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” Romans 13:1.  
See also 1 Peter 2:13.

#### **c. To masters:**

- i. “Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.” 1 Peter 2:18.

#### **d. To church leaders:**

- i. “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls ...” Hebrews 13:17.

### **2. *“Trust and Obey, for there’s no other way ...” But why do I fail to submit? “I don’t feel like it!”***

- a. **A Romans 7 thing:** “I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.” (7:15, 17-18)

- b. “(Christ) continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” 1 Peter 2:23.

- i. Entrusting = “close beside” + “give”; “to hand over with a close sense of personal involvement.”

### **3. *“(I don’t have) the ability to carry it out,” but God does!* “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:25).**

- a. “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8.

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### **4. How does God cause me to submit?**

#### **a. The absolute necessity of Regeneration;** the New Birth.

- i. “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom 6:22-23.
- ii. “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” 1 John 5:12.

#### **b. Suffering: two types of suffering:**

##### **i. For consequences:**

1. “... whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.” 1 Peter 4:1-2.
2. “... we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character...” Romans 5:3-4.
3. Like Pavlov’s dog.

##### **ii. With Christ:**

1. “To this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” 1 Peter 2:21.
2. “... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share (*koinonia*) his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ...” Phil 3:10.

**iii. The impact of both types of suffering:** *“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”* C.S. Lewis

**iv. The outcome of both sufferings:** *“There was a plate of biscuits between us on the table, and I picked up one and broke it in half as though to eat it. Then, fitting the two pieces together again carefully, I said, ‘It looks all right, but it is never quite the same again, is it? When once your back is broken, you will yield ever after to the slightest touch from God.’”* Watchman Nee, *The Normal Christian Life*.

#### **c. Apostolic disciplines:** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42.

##### **i. The Apostles’ Teaching** (*didache* = “established teaching”)

1. “... the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ...” Ephesians 2:20.

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2. “The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” Revelation 21:14.

### **ii. Fellowship.** (*koinonia* = “participation”, “intimate fellowship”)

1. “Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor ...” Romans 15:26.
2. “... begging us earnestly for the favor (*charis*) of taking part in (*koinonia*) the relief of the saints.” 2 Corinthians 8:4.
3. “If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation (*koinonia*) in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy ...” Philippians 2:1-7.
4. “... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share (*koinonia*) his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ...” Phil 3:10
5. “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship (*koinonia*) with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7.

### **iii. Breaking of Bread.**

1. “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread ...” Acts 20:7.
2. “The bread that we break, is it not a participation (*koinonia*) in the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16.

### **iv. Prayers.** (*proseuché* = “exchange” + “wish”)

1. “We have not ceased to pray for you ...” Colossians 1:9.
2. “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2.