

**On Submission**  
Hope Chapel Honolulu  
Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21, NIV)

**Introduction**

Maybe it's American history or culture, or just human pride, but we don't seem to like the idea of submission. Perhaps it's because we think of ourselves as the world's sole superpower, perhaps because our rights and freedoms have obscured our sense of responsibility and given birth to entitlement? But no matter the reason, we mistakenly strive to prove our own worth rather than help others to see true value. Thankfulness leads to trust and submission is Christ's path to honor (Ephesians 1:19-21).

**1. Mutual submission and witness in the marriage relationship. (Ephesians 5:21-33)**

- a) A wife's submission is expressed through honor and service.
- b) A husband's submission is expressed through love and sacrifice.

**2. Parenting as discipleship. (Ephesians 6:1-4)**

- a) Children are to be raised in the way of Christ and not just the way of the world.
- b) Fathers are to resemble and represent their Heavenly Father to children.

**3. Worship, discipleship and witness in the workplace. (Ephesians 6:5-9)**

- a) Obeying our earthly masters as we would Christ, “doing the will of God from the heart.”
- b) Masters are to serve their servants knowing that they will share the same Master in heaven.

**Conclusion**

David and Christ are widely quoted as having taught that “the meek shall inherit the earth” (Ps37:11, Mt5:5). It's been said that the kingdom of God grows with every new, deepened and reconciled relationship. Submitting to one another because of our shared reverence for and relationship with Christ—as well as with one another in Christ—is how we best resemble and represent Christ. Mutual submission in our relationships is God's way for worship, discipleship and witness.

**For our prayerful study, discovery and application:**

1. How should the common thread of mutual submission be expressed in our every relationship?
2. How is parenting “discipleship” and how might youth ministry best complement parenting?
3. How can you make “worship, discipleship and witness” happen in your workplace?

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