

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE RESPECTED
LOVE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH – PART 2 OF 4
1 CORINTHIANS 16:16

GOD-HONORING SUBMISSION

1. God-honoring submission is a key theme of the **Spirit-filled** life.
2. **All** believers are to **submit** to one another (Eph. 5:21, 28-29).
 - Husbands are to love **like Christ** and nurture their wives (Eph. 5:21).
 - **Wives** to husbands (Eph. 5:22)
 - **Children** to parents (Eph. 6:1-3)
 - **Believers** to government laws (Rom. 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13)

KEY THOUGHT: **Humility** will protect the submissive one from being **abused** while keeping the one in authority from being overbearing (1 Pet. 5:5).

I. THOSE WORKING TOGETHER (1 COR. 16:16a)

- A. Christian leaders are **servants** (Matt. 20:26-28).
 1. Christian leaders do not dominate in **dictatorial** fashion by bullying others with **carnal** power and authority (Matt. 20:25).
 2. Christian leaders lead by being **servants** to those they lead and by giving themselves **away** to the flock (Matt. 20:26-27).
 3. Jesus was the perfect example of a **servant**-leader when He **suffered** the full cup of God's wrath against man's sin (Matt. 20:28).
- B. Christian leaders are to live a life **worthy** of **imitation** (1 Cor. 11:1; 4:16)
 1. Christian leaders have a **solid**, Scriptural life that supports the **transforming** power of the gospel (1 Thess. 1:5-6).
 2. Christian leaders are to establish a **pattern** of **faith** in their lives to encourage and lead the flock (Heb. 13:7).

KEY THOUGHT: **All** Christians are to be involved in the discipleship process so more Christian leaders are **grown** (2 Tim. 2:2; Luke 6:40).

II. THOSE MAKING SACRIFICES TOGETHER (1 COR. 16:16b)

- A. A church can be amazingly productive when it decides suffer and strive together to pursue ministry for Christ and to glorify God (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
1. The churches in Macedonia rose above their pain to join forces to accomplish a goal that honored God (2 Cor. 8:1-2).
 2. The Macedonians were single-minded in their desire to glorify God by ministering to the struggling saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:2-4).
- B. Christians can lean on one another when challenges begin to mount (Neh. 4:13-18).
1. Christians can come to the aid of their fellow believers with support, encouragement, and wisdom, but remember God will receive all the glory for victories and successes (Neh. 4:13-15).
 2. Fellowship and support between Christians does draw down the resources devoted to God's work, but God seems to always bring victory (Neh. 4:13-18; *emphasis v. 15*).

KEY THOUGHT: A church that works and suffers together to accomplish Christ-honoring goals does not seem to have time to quarrel or be factious (1 Cor. 16:16).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

August 7, 2011

SUNDAY: ***All believers are to submit to one another (Eph. 5:21)!*** Paul continues the discussion about the household of Stephanas serving the saints in the church. He comments that the members of the church should come alongside Stephanas' household in this endeavor (1 Cor. 16:16). God-honoring submission between believers is a key theme in the Spirit-filled life. All believers submit to the Lord and to each other (Eph. 5:21). Husbands are to love their wives like Christ loved the church so as to nurture and cherish them (5:25, 28-29). Wives are to submit to their husbands for protection and spiritual growth (5:22-24). Children are to submit to their parents, and employees to employers (6:1-3, 5-8). All believers are subject to the laws of their government (Rom. 13:1). The scriptures teach that all this "structure" is supported and insulated by vast amounts of God-given humility. Humility will protect the submissive one from being abused while keeping the one in authority from being overbearing (1 Pet. 5:5). Ask the Lord to help you embrace submission as a positive step in your spiritual growth. ***May the difficult passages in scripture become a blessing to your life!***

MONDAY: ***Christian leaders are servants (Matt. 20:26-28)!*** The context of submission in our study of 1 Corinthians 16 deals with leadership and "followship". First and foremost, Christian leaders are to be servants. Jesus described the servant-leader construct in some detail with His disciples (Matt. 20:26-28). Christian leaders do not dominate in dictatorial fashion by bullying others with carnal power and authority (20:25). Christian leaders lead by being servants to those they lead and by giving themselves away to the flock (20:26-27). The Christian leader places God first in life, others second, and himself third. Jesus was a perfect example of a servant-leader when He suffered the full cup of God's wrath against man's sin (20:28). Humility is needed for a Christian leader. Trusting the Lord and submitting to the scriptural plan is mandatory (Eph. 5 & 6). Pray for the wisdom and humility necessary to execute your leadership responsibilities as a servant-leader. ***May the example of Jesus be an encouragement for you to make the effort and seek accountability to be a servant-leader!***

TUESDAY: ***Christian leaders are to live a life worthy of imitation (1 Cor. 11:1; 4:16)!*** Paul mentioned several times the importance of having godly examples to follow. Christian leaders are to live a life worthy of imitation (1 Cor. 11:1; 4:16). Christian leaders are not expected to be perfect or to be without personal struggles. However, sinful failures are not to dominate their behavior, and all areas of their lives should demonstrate significant personal growth. Christian leaders have a solid scriptural life that supports the transforming power of the gospel (1 Thess. 1:5-6). Spiritual victories should be visible in the life of a leader over time. Christian leaders are to establish a pattern of faith in their lives to encourage and lead the flock (Heb. 13:7). Leaders are to be the spiritual mentors of the congregation by the lives they lead. Pause and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you are currently deficient as a spiritual leader. Commit yourself to being faithful to study scripture in the area(s) of your weakness and build accountability into your life. ***May the spiritual growth you enjoy become an encouragement to those around you!***

WEDNESDAY: *Christians leaders are grown and not born (2 Tim. 2:2; Luke 6:40)!*

All Christians are to be involved in the discipleship process to glorify God by sanctifying the fellowship of the church (Titus 2:1-8). Discipleship is the process of growing additional leaders for the kingdom of God (2 Tim. 2:2; Luke 6:40). Paul challenged Timothy to continue the chain of discipleship in 2 Timothy. Theoretically, that chain has fanned out across the world and extended to you. It is important that each Christian contribute to the chain of discipleship to help it remain unbroken. Are you willing to be prepared to be used by God, to sanctify your life to be useable? If you will prepare yourself to be used, God will “wear you out.” Pray that this would be the day that you would step forward and commit to the Lord to be serious about your own personal spiritual growth. *May this be the first day of a sanctified life in Christ!*

THURSDAY: *Christians serve God to bring Him glory (2 Cor. 8:1-5)!* The church can be amazingly productive when it decides to pursue ministry for Christ and to glorify God (2 Cor. 8:1-5). One example of a church that rose above its circumstances to glorify God was in Macedonia. The church at Macedonia rose above their poverty and pain to join forces to accomplish a goal that honored God (2 Cor. 8:1-2). The Macedonians were single-minded in their desire to glorify God by ministering to the struggling saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:2-4). The Macedonians saw this opportunity to meet the financial needs of the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem as a special privilege (9:7). Participating in any ministry is a privilege because, as we serve others, we serve God. Ask the Lord which ministry team you are to serve on this next year. *May the challenge of praying about where you are to serve bring you closer to the Lord!*

FRIDAY: *Christians are to support one another when challenges mount (Neh. 4:13-18)!*

Christians need to be able to lean on one another when the going gets rough. There are many ways to assist your fellow Christians. Christians can come to the aid of fellow believers with support, encouragement, or wisdom. However, remember that God will receive all the glory for the victories and successes (Neh. 4:13-15). When Christians help one another by giving their time, financial resources, or skills, it does draw against their available ministry resources. Amazingly, God always seems to complete His tasks and receive the glory He deserves (Neh. 4:13-18; *emphasis* on v. 15). Are you being prepared to be used by God? This is a perfect time of year to decide to begin attending Sunday School, men’s or women’s Bible Study, or to find a place to serve that will stretch you. Agree with God that He is in charge, and listen for His leadership in your life. *May the fall be a time of great growth for you personally and for your church!*

SATURDAY: *Christians should respect and minister to one another in the church*

(1 Cor. 16:16)! Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 16:15 and 16 that the ministry to the saints was a wonderful way to serve the Lord. Furthermore, those that witnessed these acts of kindness and ministry are to submit to these servants of God and join them. A church that works and suffers together to accomplish Christ-honoring goals does not seem to have time to quarrel or be factious (1 Cor. 16:16). The family of God should be a beehive of activity focused on the sanctification of the saints, the evangelization of the lost, and care for the next generation of disciples that are being trained. This is best done in an atmosphere of love and respect between brothers and sisters in Christ. How can you contribute to this form of church family life? What can you do to help make our church a family that lives and works together to glorify God? Pray for wisdom. Look deep within your life and seek to use your gifts to the Lord’s glory. *May the Lord be pleased with our love for one another (John 13:34-35)!*