



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 30, July 28 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

THAT HATED, DIRTY WORD— SUBMIT! ... or ... SUBMISSION!

(Edited from an article by Vernice Smith, Logos Magazine, Australia, written in the 1970s)

(WHAT THIS IS REALLY ABOUT... is the BEAUTY and the POWER of the SUBMISSION to which God calls EVERY Christian!)

The very first chapter in Genesis gives us testimony of submission and harmony in the Godhead— “Let **US** make man in **OUR** image, after **OUR** likeness.” (Genesis 1:26) The one, the true, and living Almighty God is triune— yet one; AND the Triune God reveals the beauty and the power of submission!

**** Submission by JESUS the SON:** The Eternal Son, veiled in flesh and dwelling among men said, *“The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do.”* (John 5:19) This does not mean that Jesus had no ability— but in the eternal purpose of God and in divine order of the Godhead, Jesus did not act or speak apart from the will of the Father. **Jesus also says,** *“I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak.”* (John 12:49)

**** Submission by GOD the FATHER: It is written of the FATHER:**
*“The Father judgeth no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honor the Son, **even as** they honor the Father.”*
 (John 5:22) The Son and the Father are in total submission, the one to the other!

**** Submission by the HOLY SPIRIT: The HOLY SPIRIT** speaks not of Himself, but whatever He hears [from the Father or the Son] He speaks!
 (John 16:13-14)

AGAIN, THE SUBMISSION OF JESUS: HE EMPTIED HIMSELF (Phil. 2:6-8) — When the Son came to earth, He laid aside His personal divine prerogatives and placed Himself within the limitations of man. He took on Him the form of a servant. In this lowly state, as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death. When Jesus was illegally tried and falsely accused before Pilate, He offered no defense. *“When He was reviled, He reviled not again: when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.”* (I Peter 2:23) Verse 21 says that **He left us an example that we should follow in His steps.**

**** Are we walking in His steps; or are we more interested in defending and ‘saving’ ourselves?** As Christians, we often fall short because we place limitations on our calling to walk in His steps. Usually, we will only take wrong for so long and then we feel justified to rise up and justify anger, hurt, resentment, bitterness, or retaliation. JESUS WAS DIFFERENT— for not only was Jesus obedient unto death, but unto the death of the cross. Whoever was killed in this manner was counted accursed. Jesus could not take a more shameful place than that.

TOTAL DOMINION THROUGH TOTAL SUBMISSION!

However, because the Son emptied Himself, and made Himself of no reputation, became a servant, and humbled Himself even unto the death of the cross, **God has highly exalted him** and has given Him a name above all others, and has given Him dominion over all creation, *“Every*

knee shall bow and every tongue confess.” That’s total dominion from submission!

AS to DOMINION— man is not wrong in seeking to gain dominion over the earth. It is an inherent part of his life. He was so created, Genesis 1:26. His error lies in his manner of gaining dominion. The first image that comes to us of man seeking dominion is that of Kings ruling over nations; the strong suppressing the weak, the clever outwitting those not quite so alert, the “haves” exploiting the “have-nots”, etc. **In Christian churches and homes this same spirit** of seeking to ‘lord over’ is all too frequent and is tragic. (See Matt. 16:24-25, 23:1-12; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Peter 5:1-5) This is not the image of dominion to which Jesus calls us. **Jesus calls us to Galatians 5:21-24 (The fruit of the Holy Spirit) and NOT to Galatians 5:19-20 (The works of the flesh!)**

SUBMISSION IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The first family was placed in a beautiful garden with all manner of fruit to eat. In the middle of the garden were two trees which represented two manners of life. **Note:** There is no virtue in innocence. Therefore, Adam and Eve had to make a choice to establish their virtue. They were thoroughly instructed by God. **** THE TREE OF LIFE** was representative of Christ; and of being totally dependent upon Christ, of living by faith in Him, of submitting their wills to Him in all their deliberations, of moving only by the impulse of the Spirit of God. This way of life held for them unlimited possibilities. **** THE TREE of the KNOWLEDGE of GOOD and EVIL** represented a life of total independence, making their own decisions, following their own desires, going their own way, doing as they pleased. This was the way of Lucifer. If they choose their way in rebellion against God’s way, they would forfeit all fellowship with the Father and with the Son. They would die. Of course, they did just that; and we have followed in their steps as sinners/rebels by nature and sinners/rebels by choice.

THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD’S WORD:

From the first attack in the garden until this hour, Satan has been busy seeking to undermine man's confidence in God's Word. **First**, he projected a doubt, "*Yea, has God said?*" **Second**, it was a flat denial, "*Ye shall not surely die.*" **Third**, he deceived them, "*Ye shall be as gods.*" Genesis 3:1-5. **Satan so magnified and promised immediate gain that they lost sight of (1) their present great blessing of fellowship with God; and (2) their potential great loss—separation from God.** Reality: All of Satan's offers lead to heartache and destruction.

Now, consider this: Many generally consider that the matter of submission to God is a need which resulted from... as a result of our sin. This is not the whole truth. **RATHER: Ruling by submission is the divine order revealed in the Godhead. The same pattern is set forth in the garden before sin entered the human family.** Jesus the Son, who knew no sin, said, "*As the living Father has sent me, and I live by the Father, so he that eateth Me [he who takes me as his 'food' so as to be 'spiritually' nourished by Me] shall live by Me.*" (John 6:57)

So, the call to submission pre-dated sin! It was and is the divine method practiced by the Godhead. It was the divine method for Adam and Eve before they sinned. Submission to God is still the divine method of God for us.

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU (Phil. 2:5) — Again, foundationally you do not submit to Christ just because you have sinned. **You submit to Him because this is DIVINE order apart from sin and because you love Him.** Our first parents were told to eat freely of the tree of life (submit) before they were conscious of sin. We extol the Savior for the path He took as outlined in Phil. 2:6-8. All our praises shall fall far short of all He is worthy. But let us remind ourselves of an emphasis which is very much neglected. **By going this way, Jesus showed us the way of dominion [reigning in life by Christ Jesus], which is total submission.**

SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE: Obedience to God is much more than outward conformity. It is a heart attitude. How many times have we gone through the motions of obedience, but all the time murmuring and complaining? This was not submission. Little Joe came to school from a

very undisciplined family. He found it difficult to stay seated at his desk. The teacher called him back to his seat several times. Finally he defied the teacher and started walking for the door. She got him by the coat collar and bounced him down hard on to his seat. He remained there for the rest of the morning. At noon the boys laughed because he had to sit down. **He retorted, "I was still standing up inside!"** How many times have you and I stood up inside while giving outward obedience? Submission is accepting without reservation, the wishes of another. *"I delight to do thy will, O my God."* (Ps. 40:8)

SUBMISSION IN THE HOME

Concerning the home, God says, *"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto Christ."* (Eph. 5:22-24) Many wives become rebellious over this Scripture because of the kind of husband they have. They don't mind submitting unto Christ. . . but that man!? I ask quickly, "Do you find fault with Christ? Why, of course not. Do you always submit to Him? Well, n-no!" **So the real problem is not just the husband, but submission!** Jesus said, *"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me."* (Matt. 25:40)

Note: The same concept is true when it comes to husbands loving their wives as Christ loves the Church— Ephesians 5:25-33! **By the way,** this love, which a husband is to give to his wife is a submitting love: Philippians 2:3-8! Basically, my problem is not people, places, or pressures, **but having a right attitude and showing a proper spirit.** I can only have this as I submit to Jesus Christ afresh and draw upon Him for grace that is needed in the immediate situation.

**** The measure of my submission to Christ will be the measure of my submission to the people involved in my circumstances. Every situation gives rise to two questions,**

1. What does God have in this for me? — What is GOD desiring to change in me, teach me, etc?

2. What does God have in this through me? — What is the sacrificial ministry He wants to do through me on behalf of others, for Christ's sake?

Moreover and in the first place, difficult places and difficult people reveal what ‘sort of spirits’ rule me, such as,

1. Pride - I became very angry because my dignity was offended.
2. Self-righteousness - I know I am right, therefore I do not have to take it.
3. Self-pity - I feel so sorry for myself because I am so badly abused.
4. Impatience - When is this ever going to change?
5. Fear - I am so afraid of what is going to happen. . . to me or mine.

Any of the manifestations mentioned above, and many others, reveal a very definite need in my own life. **God has allowed me to become entangled with certain people so that these needs will be exposed in my own heart. In my unwillingness to face up to myself, I keep digging away at the (real or imagined!) faults and failures of others!**

Freedom and deliverance come when I confess: “As far as I am concerned, God is not interested in what is wrong with the other person! He wants to deliver me from every fleshly impulse in my own heart and He wants me to deny self, take up my cross, and walk in His steps! Responses of Galatians 5:19-21 are always wrong; responses of Galatians 5:22-24 are always right!” **FURTHERMORE, if my spouse** [or neighbor, co-worker, fellow church-member] **is really as bad as I think he/she is, then no doubt I am at their side to reveal the true life of Jesus Christ—** even if it means being the ‘next’ Stephen!! (Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-60)

In I Peter 3:1-6, the wife is told to submit (commit herself without reservation) to her husband for the express purpose of winning him to Christ. This is to be done not by an outward display of attractive clothes, but by a revelation of true Christian character; inward beauty, a meek and a quiet spirit. God confirms that such effort will bring forth fruit.

** When I bring my own spirit into subjection to Christ, by faith, along with all wrong thoughts and imaginations, **God is unleashed in mighty ways** □ Acts 4:23-33; 16:25-36; 2 Cor. 10:4-6.

We are forever accusing the other person. God says my problem is ME. When my heart attitude is right then He may well deal with those concerned. He is waiting to do so.

A lady came to a pastor, desiring to get his sanction for a divorce from an irresponsible drunkard of a husband who left her to provide for nearly all of the needs of their family for over twenty years. She was full of bitterness from the abuse she had taken. To her chagrin, she was told that her problem was not her husband, but herself. After a thorough study of submission **she was willing to continue keeping house for her husband, but of course she could never love him.** The need of manifesting the love of Christ revealed the true attitude of her heart. Bitterness, resentment, religious pride, etc., were confessed and repented of in the presence of the pastor. She then went and confessed her wrong attitude to her terrible husband. This really 'broke the ice' in her own heart and it began to melt his. A few years later he was not only saved, but the Superintendent of a Sunday School. **Over twenty years of insubordination (against God's Word) brought only heartache and resentment and ugliness.** A few years of submission brought great joy and happiness and great beauty. She learned to rule by submission. ****"God is in readiness to avenge all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled."** (2 Cor. 10:4-6)

** **BUT WHAT IF THIS WIFE** had so repented and so walked for the remainder of her days **and her husband never repented and came to Christ? Would her labors have been in vain?** No, not at all— **for she would have** been walking in the steps of Jesus! **She would have** been manifesting the peace and joy of Jesus! Labors in the LORD are never in vain and for all eternity she would have been 'stamped' with, *"Well done, enter into the joys of thy LORD!"*

QUESTION: . . . Since the husband is the head of the home, does that mean he is free to demand and dominate at will? **ABSOLUTELY NOT! First of all, the man is not 'the head' of the home— JESUS CHRIST IS!** (1 Cor. 11:3) And husbands are to love their wives even as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. (Eph. 5:25-33) **Jesus SUBMITTED to the cross! (Philippians 2:3-11) The husband is to**

SUBMIT to a life of laying down his life for his wife for Jesus' sake! To love as Christ loves is only possible by the grace of God. **The husband who gives himself for his wife as Christ did for the Church will not intentionally nor deliberately do anything to bring hurt or disgrace his wife. [In submission to Christ, we embrace our God-given calling regardless of whether our spouse does or not... all as true worship to Christ who is always worthy that we do so!]**

SUBMISSION TO LAW AND ORDER

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man, FOR THE LORD’S SAKE.” (I Peter 2:13-20) Everyone knows that it is law and order that keeps us from anarchy. Finite man will of necessity make finite rules. We dare to believe that for the most part men set up regulations according to the best of their understanding. We might have much better suggestions, but since we were not consulted, it is for us to abide by decisions that have been made until such a time that a change can be brought about. Is there sometimes a note of contempt among us because certain laws, and men in public life, fall so short of our personal evaluations? Let us consider the emphasis of our text again. **Submit** (that is, commit yourself without reservation) yourselves to every ordinance of man: not for the law’s sake, not for the man in offence but ***“For the Lord’s sake.”***

And if in fact, to submit to human ‘delegated’ authority I am being required to DISOBEY the clear absolute authority of God— then, I must humbly and boldly disobey man, submit to God, and humbly take human consequences! **In this fashion the martyrs have died at the stake... and while burning in the flames they have sung praises to God and prayed for God’s mercy on their tormentors!**

SUBMISSION IN THE CHURCH

In Hebrews 13:17 we read, **“Obey** them that have the rule over you, **and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls,** as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Notice the double emphasis, obey and submit (commit yourself without reservation to the wishes of another). ****The**

constant reason given for not submitting is that the pastoral leadership is wrong. No doubt, at times this is true. But it is also obvious that an honest appraisal will reveal that in Christ-honoring, Bible-honoring churches, leaders are not as badly off in their judgment as often as they are charged to be.

John the Baptist did not mingle freely with the people and they said he had a devil. **Jesus** associated with all and they called Him a gluttonous man and a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. (Luke 7:33-34) There may have been faults in John the Baptist and no doubt are in pastoral leaders today. **There were no faults in Jesus.** Though faultless, yet within 3 ½ years after He began His public ministry, they crucified Him. The problem with Him was certainly not leadership. It was insubordination, lack of submission, by those who opposed Him.

After telling US not to be drunk with wine and TO BE BEING FILLED with the Holy Spirit, etc— The Holy Spirit continues, ** **“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God?”** (Eph. 5:18-21) JESUS PLACES His redeemed ones in LOCAL BODYS OF BELIEVERS, where we are members one of another, where we are built up by that which each one supplies, where we carry out a host of ONE ANOTHERS TOWARD each other, and where we are to SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER in the fear of God. (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:11-16; Eph. 5:21) **IF ANY ONE OF US ARE REFUSING TO SUBMIT TO JESUS CHRIST BY REFUSING TO SUBMIT TO A LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS— WE ARE OPENLY REBELLING AGAINST JESUS CHRIST.**

Jesus Christ laid aside His personal divine prerogatives, placed Himself within the limitations of humanity, and committed Himself totally to the will of the Father in every situation of His life. He placed His faith fully in the Father; who brought forth His eternal purpose, for, in and through the Son, by the Spirit, in every circumstance. Because of this God has highly exalted Him. Phil. 2:9-11.

IT IS TIME TO come out of the prison of our REBELLIOUS, independent little selves!

IT IS TIME TO submit ourselves one to another, as set forth in the Word of God!

As we do, we will experience GREAT miracles from Godly Submission!

Grace to all! James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS:

- ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities, led by Jody Allen
- ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)**
- ☐ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— **NEXT, AUGUST 13, 11:00am**, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30—

AUGUST 2 & 9:

9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service

Noon— Covered dish Meal **1:00pm**, Early Afternoon Service

SPECIAL NOTE FOR AUGUST 9: During the early afternoon service we will have AN OPEN FORUM FOLLOW-UP.

AUGUST 16: 9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service / LORD’S SUPPER /// NO noon meal or afternoon service. SEVERAL **HOME GROUPS** MEET AT VARIOUS TIMES, generally during the **THIRD SUNDAY** weekend! Inquire! Be a part!

AUGUST 23: 9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service **Noon**— Covered dish Meal **1:00pm**, Early Afternoon Service

AUGUST 30: 9:30am, Sunday School **10:45am**, Worship Service // NO noon meal or afternoon service. **SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY EVENING OF PRAISE. We gather as a body of believers to PRAISE THE LORD through the sharing of various songs, hymns, Scripture songs; by sharing Scriptures and testimonies.**



SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL! Call— 615-452-5951