

Winning by Submitting To Authority

"For the Win" series- Part 8

Connect: Describe a time in your life when you felt you acted in rebellion to an authoritative figure.

Hook: Consider for a few moments the advice that is given to us in Psalms 1:1-3:

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 1:3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Discuss verse 1. Why is a man or woman blessed when they avoid these three different situations?

How about verse 2? How can God's law or word help us to avoid the negative circumstances found in verse 1?

Pastor Brandon made the following statements in his message on "Claiming the Authority of Jesus":

"Claiming the authority of Jesus absolutely starts with your decision and declaration that Jesus Christ is absolutely LORD of your life.

This means complete surrender of your will.

This means complete submission to His will.

This means complete obedience to His leading."

When it comes to our will, our submission to the will of Jesus, and obedience to His leading, the Bible teaches that there is another kind of submission that must be practiced by faithful believers. The following scriptures describe this submission and will lead us in our discussion today.

Book: I Peter 2:13-25

1Pe 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

1Pe 2:14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

1Pe 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

1Pe 2:16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

1Pe 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

1Pe 2:19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

1Pe 2:20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

1Pe 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1Pe 2:22 "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH";

1Pe 2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

1Pe 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

1Pe 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Look:

Why should believers submit even to unjust authorities?

How can God have established all authorities including ungodly leaders? How does the believer reconcile this?

In what ways have you experienced ungodly leadership and how did you respond to it? How can we seek to honor God better in those situations?

In understanding the role of government, what else should be the Christian's response in supporting government, other than submission?

Have you ever seen good acts, done in submission to those who have been antagonistic, bring about conviction, even repentance in the offender's life? Have you had a similar personal experience?

What does Peter mean by Christians being free men in the context of submission? Read John 8:34–36 for a possible answer.

How can a believer walk in the freedom Christ has given him/her to forgive, serve, submit or bless those who have hurt them?

What ways have you seen the Word of God make you free from bondage to sin or give you the ability to submit?

Practically speaking, what does it mean to "entrust" your life into God's hands, especially during unjust persecution? What are some hindrances to fully trusting God even in hard situations?