

How Do You Submit To God?

by Wayne Goff

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” James 4:7-8.

“Submit to God” is a command from God that can be obeyed or not. So men **choose** to submit to God by obeying His commandments. It really is that simple!

Jesus declared: *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him”* John 14:21. So Jesus equates obeying His commandments with loving Him and the heavenly Father.

John, the apostle of love, wrote: *“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him”* 1 John 2:5. So now we see that our love for God is *“perfected”* (made complete, finished) by our obedience.

But **submission** is a very distasteful thing to the carnally-minded! Just the same Christ commands wives to **submit** to their husbands (Eph. 5:22). Though our society may scoff at this command, it still remains. Christians are to **submit** to the human government under which they live (1 Peter 2:13). As disdainful as some political leaders are to us, we must still honor the office. And again, Christians are to **submit** to one another (Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 5:5). In each of these commands, there is a **denying of self** for the good of another. Do we not remember that Jesus taught that His true disciples would do just that? Matthew 16:24. Sometimes we give lip service to an idea but then refuse to put it into practice. Be careful about that.

You would think that it would be easy to submit to God. After all, He is perfect, holy, all-knowing, benevolent and loving. But our sinful, selfish pride gets in the way. The word translated *“submit”* in the New Testament means *“to place oneself under the authority of another; recognizing a greater rank.”* But in the case of God, He is not only of a greater rank, but He is a greater being! Let us learn greater humility, by denying ourselves, while promoting others for the good of mankind and of God!

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