

SUBMISSION TO GOD'S PLAN

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It seems to be the heart of mankind to walk contrary to God's order for creation. As soon as children begin to exhibit their own will, they often display a tendency to only do what they want to do. As adults, the undisciplined seek to do their own will, in their own way, according to their opinions of what is right and wrong. The Bible teaches us that, *"knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts"* (2 Peter 3:3, NKJV).

The Bible teaches an order for all of creation that requires voluntary obedience to authority ordained by the Lord in many areas. This article will address some key areas along with several scriptures that you may want to use and keep as quick references.

It is clear that ultimate and all authority resides in our Creator, the only God of His creation.

Authority Over All Creation Resides In God

Psalm 135:6 (NKJV), *"Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places."*

Isaiah 46:9-10 (NKJV), *"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"*

Daniel 4:35 (NKJV), *"All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have You*

done?'"

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV), *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"*

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV), *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."*

Colossians 1:16-17 (NKJV), *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."*

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV), *"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."*

Submission In The Home

The home is part of the foundation of the church. It was created with a purpose according to a specific pattern. A pattern that we do not have the right or authority to change.

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV), *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

Within the home, are a husband and a wife, male and female. Both are equally intelligent. Both are equally vital to the family. Both are uniquely gifted to do

many things. And yet, there are unique and absolute differences between a man and a woman.

One obvious difference is that only women can produce babies! Here are a handful of other differences between males and females:

1. Men typically have thicker skin - by about 25 percent. They also have higher densities of the protein collagen.
2. The differences in density go beyond skin deep. Usually, men also have denser, stronger bones, tendons, and ligaments than women.
3. On average, men typically have more muscle mass than women. And those skeletal muscles are faster and more powerful. But women's muscles more readily resist fatigue and are faster to recover.
4. The second longest finger for most women is next to their thumb - the index finger. But men are the opposite. They usually have ring fingers—those next to their pinkie finger - that are longer than their index fingers.
5. There are differences in the way male and female brains are structured, and how they process information and interact with chemical signals. For example, men have more information-containing gray matter, but women have more white matter, which connects different parts of the brain. Also, women have bigger memory centers than men.
6. During exercise, women's primary fuel is fat. For men, it's carbohydrates.
7. Men have pronounced Adam's apples. That's because they have larger voice boxes that make the surrounding cartilage stick out more.
8. The daily calorie requirement for men is higher than for women. There are a few reasons for this; higher muscle mass, stature, and basal metabolic rate. Pound for pound, muscles burn calories at more than double the rate of fat.
9. Men and women carry different amounts of body fat. The higher body fat in women - about 10 percent - mostly supports reproductive physiology. Women typically carry their body fat in their hips and thighs. Fat tends to deposit around men's stomachs.
10. Men normally have more red blood cells (4.7-6.1 million cells per microliter compared to 4.2-5.4 million cells per microliter for women).
11. Women typically have lower blood pressure than men - regardless of race or ethnicity.
12. Men are less sensitive to cold temperatures.
13. Women have better senses of smell and taste. They have 50 more cells (neurons) in their olfactory bulbs - the part of the brain responsible for processing smells. Women also usually have more taste buds than men.

Here is where it gets interesting. Though husband and wife are created equal in many ways, and physically they are quite different, the Lord asks the woman to be willing to submit to her husband's headship. This can be a difficult thing to do and can only be properly accomplished by first believing in the Scriptures and God's plan, and by the help of the Holy Spirit.

God has asked that there be one head in a home, not two. However, the "one head" should be a blending of both husband and wife's wisdom in decision-making. There is no room for "two heads" in a healthy home. In nature, a "two-headed" creature is called a "freak." In nature, a creature with no "head" is called "dead."

Here are a few scriptures that pertain to the relationship between husband and wife:

Ephesians 5:22-24 (NIV), *"Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything."*

Ephesians 5:25-28 (NIV), *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant*

church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies."

Colossians 3:18-21 (NIV), *"Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."*

1 Peter 3:1-7 (NIV), *"Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives... Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect..."*

Children are so precious, so cute, and yet so helpless. Most animals are able to be independent very quickly. And yet God has designed children to be pretty helpless when born, and it requires 18 years or so to raise them. For this reason, mothers and fathers need to be very present in the home and to invest in their children with their lives.

God's requirements for children are pretty simple. Obey your parents! This places a great responsibility on the parents because you only have one shot at raising your kids! Time, effort, love, and sacrifice must be given to raise your children in a loving, safe, nurturing environment with the Lord at the center of your lives.

Permit me to speak regarding fathers for a moment. The world needs present, active fathers who love their children and wives, and who will make the investment of time and love for all of them. It has been said that if a man wants to know how good of a father he was, don't just look at his kids, look at his grandchildren to see if his manner of life was accepted and passed onto the next generation.

There are so many scary statistics presented from homes where the father was absent. I will share a few with you, with a disclosure that it is understood that there are many who grew up in a single-parent home and by God's grace are just fine!

The following data was taken from an article by Pastor Greg Laurie, from June 2022:

"With all our social experimentation today in America, we are blowing a hole in our hull. If the family sinks, the culture will sink with it.

- Eighty percent of teenagers admitted to psychiatric hospitals come from fatherless homes.
- Fatherless children are 100 to 200% more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems.
- A child from a fatherless home is 68% more likely to use drugs or alcohol, far more likely to become sexually active at an early age, and three times more likely to commit a violent crime.
- 63% of teenagers who attempt suicide come from fatherless homes.
- 71% of children who don't finish high school come from fatherless homes.
- 90% of our homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.
- Fatherless sons are 300% more likely to become incarcerated and to stay in juvenile institutions.
- Fatherless daughters who marry have a 92% higher divorce rate, and fatherless sons are 38% more likely to experience marital failure.
- Fatherless daughters are 53% more likely to marry as teenagers.
- Fatherless daughters are 111% more likely to have children as teenagers, and they are 164% more likely to have an out-of-wedlock birth.
- 81% of all sitting in prison today grew up in fatherless homes.

Fathers are the missing piece in all of this."

Here are a few scriptures regarding the requirements for children:

Exodus 20:12 (NIV), *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."*

Proverbs 1:8-9 (NIV), *"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck."*

Proverbs 6:20 (NIV), *"My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching."*

Proverbs 20:20 (NIV), *"If someone curses their father or mother, their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness."*

Colossians 3:20 (NIV), *"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."*

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV), *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'—which is the first commandment with a promise— 'so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.'"*

God has placed a simple order for us to follow in His church, the oversight of which is with the elders and deacons. The primary "office" in this order is that of an "elder." An "elder" is a shepherd that God places in a home, a congregation, and in the overall universal church to guide, direct, love, shepherd, and stand accountable before God for the well-being of the flock.

In the home, the husband is the elder and his wife is the deacon. In a local church, there should be elders with deacons helping. In the universal church, there are apostolic elders accountable for the assemblies worldwide, who also have traveling or apostolic deacons assisting with God's work.

Here are a few scriptures regarding submission and the order of the church assemblies.

Titus 1:5, *"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you."*

1 Peter 5:5, *"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"*

Hebrews 13:17, *"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, *"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."*

1 Corinthians 16:15-16, *"I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us."*

Titus 3:1, *"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work."*

Acts 14:23, *"So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."*

Ephesians 4:11-12, *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."*

In all of our lands, we live under human governments. It is easy to complain about the fact that many governments of men have gone further and further from the truth. And yet, we are asked to submit and to pray for our leaders. This is an important kingdom principle.

Here are a few scriptures regarding our submission to human government authorities.

Romans 13:1-2, *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves."*

Romans 13:5-7, *"Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."*

1 Peter 2:13-1, *"Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 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."*

Titus 3:1, *"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work."*

1 Timothy 2:1-2, *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."*

One of the key principles of God's kingdom is "order," and we are to voluntarily submit to the authority that God has placed in the home, and in the church. ✝



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We need to and should praise God each and every morning. Not only has He given us life, but He has taken great care of us during our entire lives. Praising Him in the morning can set the right tone for the entire day.

I am neither a morning person nor a night person. That means that I don't start the day with lots of energy and enthusiasm like a morning person might do.

I also can't say that I have experienced a lot of joy in my life. In fact, I have been praying for a much greater amount of the joy of the Lord in my life over the last few years.

Thankfully, in the last few weeks, God has answered my prayer. Praise God! He has pointed out to me a number of scriptures, and He has also given me a song in my heart each morning when I wake up. My mornings and days have been going much better recently, and I have been much more joyful than at any other time of my life.

I will share with you the verses that God shared with me, in the hopes of encouraging you, reminding you, and confirming to you, that God wants us to praise Him in the morning.

"Cause me to hear your lovingkindness in the morning" (Psalm 134:8).

"My voice you shall hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up" (Psalm 5:3).

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion', says my soul, 'Therefore I will hope in Him'" (Lamentations 3:22-24)!

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You" (Psalm 139:17,18).

"From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3).

God instructs us through His word, that there are benefits when we praise Him.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..." (Proverbs 17:22).

"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance..." (Proverbs 15:13).

And how can we have a merry heart?

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:18,19).

We can trust that God is with us and watches us throughout our days and nights, so let's not wait to praise Him just at the end of the day or when things are going well. Let's start each and every day by praising Him.

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:1-3).

"He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore" (Psalm 121:3-8).

God has abundant joy for us when we sing praises to Him. It is a river of life that never runs dry, praise God!

Let us do as the song states:

*"Cause me to come to thy river oh Lord,
Cause me to drink from thy river oh Lord,
Cause me to live in thy river oh Lord,
Cause me to come, cause me to drink, cause me to live."*

Amen! Praise God!

*"Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him in the morning,
Praise Him in the noontime,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him when the sun goes down."*

May the joy of the Lord be your strength (Nehemiah 8:10)! May His praises fill your mouth!! May your days be full of the blessings of the Lord.

In the precious and praise-worthy name of Jesus, amen! ✝

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SHARON STAR

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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