

# Submission

## YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

- **How to Start a Bible Study?**
  - find topic, question, subject
  - variety of ways to study a topic: definitions, Scriptures, Bible characters, stories, resources, life application
- **#1 – Write Down Topic/Question/Subject**
  - also write down observations or new questions as you go
- **#2 – Make a List of Questions or Goals**
  - begin by asking yourself questions about this topic, such as:
    - What do I know about "submission" before studying?
    - What do I want to learn?
    - How does this topic apply to my life right now or in the future?
  - Write down your questions about submission
    - Examples:
      - What is submission? What do I think it is before studying?
      - Is it only the wife who has to submit?
      - How should a wife submit to her husband?
        - Does it mean that a wife can never disagree, can never have a part in decision making, cannot control the budget, write a check, or even have money to spend without accounting for it?
      - Are there other areas (besides marriage) where ones have to submit?
      - Do I have to submit if I don't understand?
      - Is submission only an outward act or must my attitude be submissive as well?
      - What is the opposite of submission?
      - How do I know if I'm submitting or not submitting?
      - Are there areas in my life that I need to work on when learning about submission?
- **#3 – Look Up Definitions of the Word "Submit" or "Submission"**
  - **The Free Dictionary:** "The act or fact of submitting to the power of another"
    - "submitting" = "to yield or surrender, accept or give into the power of another"
  - **Merriam Webster:** "the condition of being submissive, humble, or compliant"
    - "submit" = "to defer to or consent to abide by the opinion or authority of another"
  - **Strong's Concordance** ("submit")
    - primary – 12 verses
    - dictionary – Vine's Expository of New Testament Words
      - "to retire, withdraw" ("to yield"), hence, "to yield, submit," is used metaphorically in Hebrews 13:17 of "submitting" to spiritual guides in the churches.
  - **Lexicon:** "put under, be subject unto, submit one's self to"
- **#4 – Look for Bible Scriptures**
  - Use a concordance
  - Web Resource: Biblegateway (KJV) – 16 references

- (Note: sometimes not all verses with your word apply; danger of doing a strictly word study; example "hell" sometimes means place of eternal punishment and other times means the grave)
- Which of those 16 verses might be possible helps in this study? (Discuss/Consider)
- Consider writing out verses at this point (this helps with memorization as well as concentration)
- **#5 – Bible Examples and Observations**
  - **Hagar told to submit to Sarai** (Read Genesis 16:1-9)
    - What is the background of this command?
    - Info about Hagar:
      - mother of Ishmael
      - Sarai's servant
      - despised her mistress (once she was pregnant)
      - Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar
      - Hagar ran away (attitude – "I'm not putting up with this")
      - angel meets Hagar & tells her to return and SUBMIT to her mistress
      - Hagar's possible questions:
        - what about Sarai's wrong?
        - what about how I have been treated?
        - shouldn't I be treated better before I have to submit?
      - Did Hagar understand WHY she was commanded to submit to the harshness of Sarai?
      - write down observations
    - **Submission to King Solomon** (Read 1 Chronicles 29:23-24)
      - "all the princes, mighty men, and sons of David"
      - takes place not long after Adonijah's revolt and death
        - nothing like seeing failure to submit result in one's death to bring a reality check
      - observations
        - the sons of David were younger than Solomon
        - this was not just submission – swearing their loyalty
      - questions
        - how old was Solomon when he became king?
          - Google: in his 20s
          - might this have made it harder to submit (young, inexperienced, father's favorite)?
        - how did Solomon view himself?
          - 1 Kings 3:7 – "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."
          - were his insecurities obvious?
          - would that make it harder to submit (to someone who was hesitant)?
      - who were the "mighty men"?
        - 30 chiefs, toughest military warriors (GotQuestions.org)
        - one man killed 800 warriors in one battle with a spear (2 Samuel 23:9-10)
        - interesting note: one of them was Uriah (previously, under King David)

- compare the experiences of these men to King Solomon's inexperience; would submitting to him have been difficult?
- Question
  - Should I only submit to someone who is experienced, has confidence, seems to know what he or she is doing? Why or why not?
- **Submission to Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus** (Read 1 Corinthians 16:15)
  - 3 men had brought a letter with questions from Corinth to Paul
  - commentators believe they were returning with Paul's answer
  - Fortunatus and Achaicus believed to be former slaves
    - (reference: [www.Bible.cc](http://www.Bible.cc) - Pulpit Commentary)
  - Paul got after the Corinthian congregation (verse 17)
    - they provided what the congregation should have but didn't (taking care of Paul's needs)
  - 1 Corinthians 16:15 – "addicted themselves" (look up other versions using [Biblegateway.net](http://Biblegateway.net) to define "addicted")
    - devoted, consecrated, volunteered, appointed
  - Commentary: "Just as these men had voluntarily devoted themselves to serving God's people, God's people should (submit) voluntarily devote themselves to work together with them."
  - observations
    - cooperating, getting along, working together is a form of submission
    - Ephesians 5:21 – "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."
- **#6 – Bible Characters Who Submitted or Failed to Submit**
  - Adam and Eve failed to submit to the command in the Garden of Eden
  - Abraham commanded to sacrifice son Isaac
  - Noah in building the ark
  - Joseph submitting to slavery & prison
  - Moses – examples of submitting and failing to submit
  - Joshua and Jericho
  - Rahab and the red cord
  - Widow feeds Elijah first
  - Naaman (eventually)
  - Hezekiah (failed to submit to the word of the Lord)
  - Daniel & 3 Hebrew boys
  - Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
    - Note: In the Godhead, the Son submits to the Father, and the Spirit submits to the Father and the Son. Yet Father, Son, and Spirit are each called God. There is no inferiority implied. There is simply order—the proper order which God has designed.
  - Philip and the Ethiopian
  - (Discuss/Consider how to study each example in greater depth)
- **#7 – Personal Stories**
  - think of times in your own life when you submitted to others (write it down)
  - Times when you succeeded? Times when you failed?

- **#8 – Who Submits to Whom?**
  - children to parents (Ephesians 6:1)
  - wife to husband (Colossians 3:18)
    - "Christian marriages were astonishing to the Roman world. In a society where women had no rights, here was wifely submission balanced by loving sacrificial headship. Marriage was placed on a very firm basis of mutuality, with both partners having equal rights. Such an arrangement was revolutionary in that day."  
(<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-5-truth-about-submission>)
  - younger to the elder (1 Peter 5:5)
  - subjects to rulers (1 Peter 2:13)
  - subject to other Christians (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16)
  - all to God (James 4:7)
- **#9 – What Does Submission Look Like?**
  - (Discuss/Consider common ideas of what submission looks like)
  - **Church-of-God-Online.com**
    - examples from this search and thoughts from sources
      - **The Death of Moses** (adult quarterly)
        - "Moses submitted, not in bitterness but in loving obedience"
        - He could have said, "If I can't go, I'm not going to help the rest of you."
        - Did it seem fair? Such a harsh punishment for one act of disobedience.
      - **The Downfall of Man** (booklet)
        - "when you submit to God and rebuke the enemy of your soul"
      - **The Wife's Place in the Home** (adult quarterly)
        - "as the church is subject to Christ"
      - **Except Ye Become as Little Children** (adult quarterly)
        - "submit to God and put their trust in Him"
      - **The Husband's Place in the Home** (adult quarterly)
        - must love wife as his own body
        - treat your wife as your equal
        - When this authority is used after the example of Christ, what wife would object to submitting to and obeying him?
      - **A Man After God's Own Heart by Sylvestre Calauan** (Gospel Trumpeter)
        - You need to submit your life to Jesus Christ. To seek after God's heart, you must be honest in His sight and with yourself.
      - **The Two Covenants by Brother Roger Decker** (Gospel Trumpeter)
        - That is the reason the Apostle Paul said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into submission." The flesh does not want to serve God; you have to make it serve Him.
    - **GospelTrumpeter.com**
      - **March 2017** – "He must fully surrender to God and get past himself and get past his own customs and traditions."
      - "one must get beyond his own way of thinking"
      - "when people do not submit to a Godly pastor, they are not growing and God is not using them"

- **September 2009 – D. S. Warner** Obedience
  - "Every word Thy mouth hath spoken Is essential to our life; All Thy mandates love betoken, To oppose them is but strife."
- **March 2014 – Personal Testimony by Susan Boyd**
  - "I did not want to submit the Bible way. I wanted to be a Christian in my way."
- **August 2011 – Brother Stegmeier's message on the home**
  - the importance of learning submission at a young age
- **Observations on what submission looks like from this Bible study**
  - often goes against human thinking and opinions
  - should be learned while we are young
  - all of God's commands are essential (cannot pick and choose what we submit to)
  - submission is more than an act (requires the right attitude)
  - submission doesn't require agreement or understanding
  - submission might require rebuking the enemy or putting down the flesh
  - submission requires honesty with God and with yourself
  - everyone is to be submitting to someone (maybe more than one)
  - failure to submit = failure to grow spiritually
- **#10 – Life Applications**
  - Write Down Questions
  - Examples
    - Do I have to submit to the preached dress standard if I do not understand it?
    - Isn't it okay to go against my husband's wishes if he is wrong?
    - If my parents are unreasonable strict, do I still need to submit to them?
    - When is it okay to not submit to others? (We are to obey "in the Lord")
    - What does failing to submit look like ...
      - in the congregation? (Negative comments about the pastor or others who make decisions)
      - with other Christians? (Arguing or putting others down)
      - on the job? (Undermining the boss; doing things your own way)
      - in the home (parents)?
      - in the home (spouse)?
      - with authority? (Taxes: claiming side job earnings or paying state sales tax)
      - with God?
- **Food for Thought**
  - **Compulsory Submission**
    - some people only submit when they are supervised but not when no one is watching
    - true submission comes from the heart
  - **Self Interest Submission**
    - people do not speed only because they do not want to pay a speeding ticket
    - a child obeys only to avoid a spanking
      - this is submitting to avoid pain or punishment
    - true submission is submitting even if it causes discomfort

- **Legalistic Submission**
  - "Because secular submission is not a voluntary matter of the heart, it results only in a legalistic kind of obedience to the letter of the law. Biblical submission goes much further as it seeks to fulfill the spirit of the matter."
  - To illustrate, let's assume one of my children is not submissive. The child asks if she can go next door to play with Sarah. I tell her no. I later find my child is next door, and when I begin to punish her for her disobedience, she insists she did not go next door to play with Sarah; she went next door to play with Stephanie, Sarah's sister. The letter of the law may not have been violated, since I did not specifically forbid going next door or playing with Stephanie. But if my child were submissive, I would only have to express to her that I did not want her going out today, and she would apply that general principle to every specific question based upon what she knew I wanted rather than upon the exact words I chose."
    - ([www.bible.org/seriespage/15-taking-second-look-submission-1-peter-213-37](http://www.bible.org/seriespage/15-taking-second-look-submission-1-peter-213-37))
  - submission does not come naturally
  - true submission seeks to please God
  - submission is an act of love
- **Is Submission Blind Obedience?**
  - Example of Daniel and 3 Hebrew boys – king's meat
  - How did they handle this?
- **Christ Is Our Example**
  - how did He submit to His parents? (Luke 2:51)
  - how did He submit to Caesar (government)? (Matthew 22:21)
  - how did He submit to His Father? (Luke 22:42)
- **How Is Our Attitude ...**
  - when we disagree, submit, and they turn out to be wrong?
  - are we smug about it?
  - do we rub it in?