

Spirit-filled Submission  
Ephesians 5:21

1. Submission is a fundamental part of living the Christian life.
  - a. In what ways did Christ display a submissive attitude while on earth? (see 1 Pet 2:22-24; Matt 17:27; Jn 4:34)
  
  - b. When Jesus did “rebel,” what were His reasons? (see Mt 15:1-9; Mk 7:1-13)
  
2. The word submit literally means “to arrange under.”
  - a. Why is it important to understand this word as something more than deference and love?
  
  - b. What examples does Paul give in Eph 5:22-6:9?
  
  - c. What are some other examples in Scripture of this term? (see 1 Pet 2:13; 5:5; 1 Tim 2:11; 3:4; Heb 13:17; 1 Cor 16:16)
  
3. Submission is not something that ought to be forced upon us, especially in the body of believers.
  - a. What resources has God given us that empower us to submit? (hint: see Eph 5:18)
  
  - b. What is the main motivation given in 1:21 for submission?
  
4. Submission begins with being filled with the Spirit, which means our minds are transformed by the truth of God’s Word, our hearts are stirred by the teaching of God’s Word, and our wills are subdued by the consistent explanation of God’s Word.
  - a. In light of that, where should we go to find out to whom we should submit and how?
  
  - b. What are some practical ways we can submit to one another?
  
  - c. How can we encourage those around us that bristle at the concept of submission?
  
5. Submission requires an incredible amount of humility and a willingness to not place our own preferences forward.
  - a. How does the gospel prepare our hearts for this attitude, and make us willing to submit gladly?
  
  - b. What are some obstacles you see in a Christian’s willingness to submit?
  
  - c. How will you pray for yourself and others to follow this command and principle?