



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Walking in submission

SPEAKER

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THEME Hebrews Revisited

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Submission can be a sensitive word as we may have experienced the failure of bad leaders, or bad followers. It can also be difficult for us to submit to our leaders. However, Pastor Seng Lee reminds us that when we have faith in God, we can learn to walk in love, truth and submission. Submission to authority is the key to receiving blessings from God.

WALKING IN SUBMISSION

1) What is submission?

Healthy submission is an act that is expressed mutually, voluntarily, humbly, and out of a desire to serve, bless and help others. This is true in all Christian relationships, as we are all told to submit to one another. This is the expression of Christian community. Submission is not about giving up our rights, or giving in to the other person's rights, rather, it is about giving in for the greater good of the kingdom. The discipline of submission frees us from the spirit of self-centeredness, allowing us to open our hearts to others. Submission is needed because we have differences in opinions. When we are insistent on our ways, we go against God's appointed leaders and do not consider others.

2) Why do we need to walk in submission?

(a) Our leaders must give an account to God.

We must avoid the individualistic way of thinking, that the world revolves around just us and God. Though we see the sins of only one person, in the eyes of the Lord, the whole nation has sinned. Our sins have consequences on each other in the community. Even though our leaders may seem like bad leaders, submit to them for they have to give an account for all of us.

(b) You can contribute to the process.

We can help our leaders lead with joy, by submitting to them willingly. Through accountability and covering our leaders cover us in prayer. Through prayer and communication, we keep our leaders updated. Do make it a point to show our appreciation our leaders!

(c) There is an impact on us

It is unprofitable for us when our leaders serve with grief, and are discouraged and tired. They provide the direction for the cell and make sure we are not lost; hence it is important for us to take care of them. It is for our own good to submit to our leaders.

To the leaders, we must also note that we are answerable to God over the way that we lead and shepherd the flock. We must lead by example, as it is a sacred calling and we should not run from it. The flock are people that we must love and care for, and people that we must disciple, which means that all of us are charged as leaders since we are all called to make disciples.

There are also limits to submission, which include things that contradict God's word, things that cause us to sin by violating our biblical values, and things that are harmful to our lives and families.

3) How do we walk in submission?

We can do so by:

- Praying for them, that they may have good conscience, conduct themselves honourably, and that they may know us and how to best minister to us.
- Submitting our ideas to them, by having the right and humble posture in accepting their ideas.
- Committing to the decision made, and working hard to make the idea work.
- Focusing on pleasing God.

CONCLUSION

The book of Hebrews focuses on the supremacy of Jesus. Jesus reigns supreme in our lives when we live by faith, and we will then please the Lord. Faith is seen in how we walk in submission to the authorities in our lives. We live by faith by submitting to God's Character, God's Conquest, God's Compassion, God's Covenant and God's Calling. The ultimate submission to our leaders is about our expression of our submission to God.

QUESTIONS

1. How does healthy submission contribute to Christian community and relationships, and what distinguishes it from simply giving up one's rights? Share an example of healthy submission and its impact that you have witnessed or experienced.

2. In what ways does submission to earthly authority reflect our faith in God, and why is it important to practice submission in our daily lives?

3. What is one thing you can do this week to bless and encourage your leaders?