

Authority and Submission

This whole idea of submission and placing oneself under someone else's authority often arouses negative feelings. Why?

The Bible views submission and authority VERY differently than that of the world.

- What is the difference between "POSITION" and "IMPORTANCE"?
- Position has to do with function. Importance has to do with the value of the person, NOT their position.
- In the world, we often equate our VALUE with our POSITION and lift ourselves up or put others down based on position, culture / color, physical features, abilities and wealth, and not CHARACTER.
- (See 1 Samuel 16:7; Luke 16:15; John 2:24-25)

The Bible teaches that being in authority over another does not give one the right to treat them with less importance or less value. In fact, the one in authority must lead as a servant and to provide and protect, not to lord it over them.

(See Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 22:25-27)

Look up 1 Corinthians 11:3 -

Who is the Head of man? (Note that Christ is above man in position AND essence)

Who is the head of woman? Is man equal to woman? (in essence vs. position)

Who is the Head of Christ? Is Christ equal (in essence vs. position) to the Father? (John 10:30; Colossians 1:15, 2:9; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7 and many others)

Some other key verses:

† Ephesians 5:22-33

† Colossians 1:15-20

† Colossians 2:9-10

More on how to be "first":

Matthew 10:39 (lose one's life to find it)

Matthew 16:24-26 (take up our cross and follow Him)

Matthew 19:30 (the last will be first)

Matthew 20:16 (the last will be first)

Matthew 20:25-28 (Jesus came to serve and we must do so also)

Matthew 22:37-39 (love your neighbor as yourself)

Matthew 23:11-12 (the greatest is one who serves)

Mark 9:35 (to be first, be the servant of all)

Mark 10:42-45 (same as Matthew 20:25-28)

Luke 9:48 (the least will be the greatest)

Luke 14:11 (the humble will be exalted)

Luke 18:14 (the humble will be exalted)

Luke 22:25-27 (Same as Matthew 20:25-28)

John 12:24-26 (we are will be honored by the Father by serving His Son)

Philippians 2:3-7 (look to the interests of others)

James 4:6-10 (God gives grace to the humble but not the proud)