

**Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational**

Bible Study Worksheet – December 13, 2020

Theme: Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth Topic: Submission and Obedience

Main Text: 1 Peter 2:13-18; Ephesians 6: 1 - 4

Key verse: Ephesians 5:21: “submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Submission and obedience are intricately linked. Meriam Webster Dictionary defines Submission as “*the state of being obedient: the act of accepting the authority or control of someone else.*” Submission is obedience which yields to power or authority. Concerning ‘Obedience,’ several Greek words are translated as obedience in the Bible. One general one is ‘*hupakoe*’ which means “to hear.” Another is “*Hupakouo*” which means to listen and obey or submit. This is the one used in Ephesians 6:1 in speaking to children. A third Greek word is “*Peitharcho*” which is translated as ‘to obey one in authority,’ as used in 1 Peter 2:13 “... *submit to all human authority...*” There is another New Testament usage, “*peithomai*” indicating persuasion. This is what Apostle Peter does in 1 Peter 2 – ‘*you are a chosen generation... as sojourners and pilgrims ... Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man ...*’ (1 Peter 2:9, 11,13 NKJV).

1. (a) **Why do you think so much effort is made to encourage believers to submission and obedience?**
(b) **In what way(s) do these definitions and 1 Peter 2:16 help us understand this discipline of submission and obedience?**

Apostle Peter wrote this letter to bring hope and encouragement to believers who lived in Roman-controlled Gentile nations like Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1 Pet. 1:1). These believers were facing persecution from non-Christians around them and perhaps also from government officials. Out there in those societies, they were exposed to laws and practices which had no bearing on God’s glory and purposes. One main reason why the Jews hated the occupying Romans was the system of taxation. Even Jesus commented on it; likewise, Apostle Paul – “... *Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them...*” (Romans 13:7 NLT). Those believers must have been conflicted in their consciences, especially when those tax revenues are used to godless ends. Like them, we find ourselves governed by ungodly men and systems. Yet, God says, “*Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,*” (1 Peter 2:13 NKJV).

2. (a) **According to Romans 13:1-2, 1 Peter 2:12, 15, what should be the basis for our submission and obedience to constituted authority?** (b) **Mention some practical areas submission to constituted authority can be tough and why?** (c) **According to 1 Peter 2:18 and Romans 13:5, what are believers to do in such situations?**

Left to ourselves, sinful man will always be lawless. This rebellious tendency towards God’s law explains man’s need for a Savior. Even with that, Christians still struggle with submitting to authority, at home, in school, at work, in Church, and government officials. However, through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, Christians possess a renewed mind and conscience which guides them to obey. But that habit of obedience needs to be instilled. God expects this to start from the home. So, the instructions about godly relationships are prefixed with “*submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” (Ephesians 5:21 NLT) Only the Savior can transform disobedient, lawless creatures into obedient, submissive citizens of heaven and earth. Similarly, only obedient parents can raise submissive and obedient children and godly homes.

3. (a) **What do you think is the greatest hindrance to submission to constituted authority?** (b) **How does godly parenting contribute to the discipline of submission and obedience?** (c) **How can the fear of God help instill the discipline of submission and obedience in the home (see 1 Peter 1:14)?**

Prayer: *Father, may we always be motivated by the honor of Your Name to submit and obey constituted authority. In Jesus Name, Amen*