

## THE 'S' WORD



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A mature member lives a life submitted to God and his word.

The 'S' word – SUBMISSION! We really can struggle with this idea. After all, it's one thing to read God's Word or receive Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. But this whole submitting to the King and his commandments thing can be a real struggle.

**James 4:6-7** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (7) **Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## IN THE BEGINNING – IT'S GOD'S STORY

We really have to start with this story, that is, the story of all things. When we get the big picture, then we can start to see our place in it. We are going to spend time in Colossians 1, so open that up in your Bible. But for now, let's start right at the beginning:

**Genesis 1:16-17** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Q. Based on these texts, who started the whole story? Why to you think it matters?**

## WHAT IS OUR PLACE IN THE STORY?

If this is God's story, where do we fit in? We were originally created in His image, to do sacred work in the temple of creation, caring for it and to be His image bearers in it. We were created to have a primary role in God's story and submission wasn't a challenge because it was our natural, created role.

But we know that didn't turn out well. We decided the story needed to be about us. We wanted equivalence with God and instead of this being God's story we wanted to tell our own story. We wanted to be gods and so we cut ourselves off from (alienated ourselves from) the Creator, God.

**Colossians 1:21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

**Romans 1:21-23** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and (3) exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Humanity is still doing this, which is why we keep trying to make this story about ourselves. We exchange the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man.

## IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

God is the author, the creator, and the storyteller. He began this thing, and He will carry it to the end He has determined.

**Rev 1:17-18** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

**Revelations 22:13** "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

In God's story, we can be redeemed in Christ by submitting to HIM and His ways. We are invited back into our rightful and intended place as submitted caretakers and representatives of Him on this earth.

**Q. If Christ is your redeemer, why do you think it's still hard to submit every day?**

## WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT HIM

**Colossians 1:18-20** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (19) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (20) and **through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

Christ is everything. He contains all the fulness of God, He is the head of the Church, and peace between God and us is found in Him. He literally brings the church (us) together with God in Himself because He is both God and man.

**Colossians 1:22-23** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (23) if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

We rely on Him completely for our relationship with God. The only requirement for us is to remain, or abide, in our faith and hope in Christ. To submit to His Kingship. We have to lean on Him completely for everything. Only then can we live in true submission to His Lordship until we are fully redeemed.

**Q. How would you express to God your understanding and willingness to submit. Say that in a written prayer.**

## SUMMARY

It's God's story, beginning to end, not ours. He created a place for us as image bearers and caretakers and we lost our place. But in God's story there is one magnificent way back, submitting to the One who brings God and Man together in Himself, Jesus Christ.

We can't do this without Him. Apart from Christ we can do nothing, not even submit. But He can do it in you. Let Him.

## LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

**Q. What effect does the submitting to the Word of God have in Your leadership and therefore your workplace?**

## RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **Read**  
How are we to submit to God?  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/submit-to-God.html>
- **Bible Study**  
Let every person be subject...  
[Roman 13:1-7](#)
- **RightNow Media @WorkStudy**  
Part 13: The King's Submission  
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/486173>