

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 5:21

Lesson #35

Subject to one another

04/15/2018

**Christianity that
does not start with
the individual -
does not start!**

**Christianity that ends
with the individual -
ends!**

1

love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
honour one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
accept one another (Romans 15:7)
admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
pray for one another (James 5:16)
confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)

The two greatest
commands, on which,
according to Jesus,
all the others depend,
are concerned with
relationships, with God
and **one another**

(Matthew 22:36-40)

**44% of the N.T.
Epistles are about
our responsibilities
to "one another"**

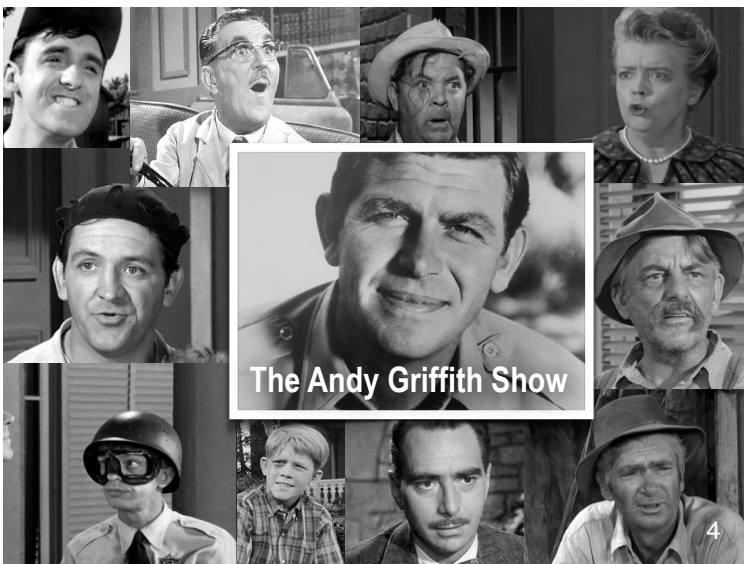
**4% is about
preaching
to the lost**

2

**The Christian church
is most often referred
to with terms like:**

**flock, family, body,
community, bride,
household, nation,
temple.**

3



4

**"The church
is to be one
place on earth
**where my soul
feels most at
home.**"**

5

Ephesians 5

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ being subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

- The (Greek) word translated "**be filled**" is the only imperative in this passage.
- It is followed by four infinitives -
 1. "speaking", 2. "singing",
 3. "giving thanks", and 4. "**being subject**".

6

This posture is applied especially to certain relationships

1 Peter 5:5

"You younger men, likewise, **be subject to your elders;**"

Romans 13:1

"Every person is to be in **subjection to the governing authorities.**"

1 Thessalonians 5:13

"and that you esteem them (**those who have charge over you in the Lord**) very highly in love because of their work."

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²² **Wives**, be **subject** to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is **subject** to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands **in everything.**"

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²¹ being subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

- The Greek word (UPOTASSO) translated "**being subject or yielding to**" - to **set in order under** the authority of another to **facilitate proper functioning.**
- The same word is also translated "**submit**".

Illustrations

- The glass (believer) is put in position to be filled by the pitcher (Christ).
- The driver yields to the highway patrolman when pulled over.

9

Subjection / Submission to one another is a basic Christian doctrine

- It is the sign of a **spirit filled life** - along with gratitude, joyful singing, edifying speech etc.
- It is something that cannot and should not be **forced on another**. The Greek word is in the middle voice.
- It is something that is applicable to **every Christian** and especially in certain areas - leaders, teachers, elders, marriage, family, etc.

10

Before we approach this topic we must be familiar with three truths.

1. The **security and significance** that every believer has "in Christ".

11

Ephesians

4:1-5:21
as the church

5:22-6:9
in the home

ch. 4-6

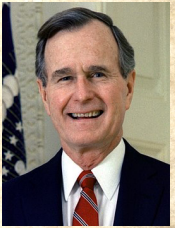
“Laying aside the old & putting on the new life”

ch. 1-3

New life “in Christ”

12

“There is but one just use of power, and it is to serve people.”



George H.W. Bush

13

Before we approach this topic we must be familiar with three truths.

1. The sense of **security and significance** that every believer has “in Christ”.
2. The way God has **ordered gender relationships**.

1 Corinthians 11:3

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”

14

Before we approach this topic we must be familiar with three truths.

1. The sense of **security and significance** that every believer has “in Christ”.
2. The way God has **ordered gender relationships**. (1 Cor.11:3)
3. The style of life **taught and modeled** by Jesus and his Apostles.
 - This was one of the shocking **distinctives** of the Christian faith in the ancient world.
 - It is a **stumbling block** to the Gospel message in the modern world.

15

Ephesians 4

“¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all **humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Romans 12:10

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor**,”

16

Philippians 2

“³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you **regard one another as more important than himself**; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard **equality** with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

17

#1 Outward posture is a sign of an inner attitude.

“³ . . . with **humility of mind** let each of you **regard** one another as **more important** than himself; . . . ⁵ Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

- ✓ Vs.5 - Christians have an “**attitude**”
- ✓ We have a way of **thinking** about ourselves and others. It's not about what we do to be subject but rather how we **see** ourselves.
- ✓ Our **hearts** are equipped with attitude detectors.
- ✓ Our posture is not **motivated** by weakness, guilt, or fear but by the desire to be Christ-like. 18

#2 Outward posture is not a sign of spiritual status “in Christ”.

“⁶ . . . did not regard **equality** with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied** Himself,”

Jesus' status and posture

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| King | in a stable |
| Messiah | on a donkey |
| Teacher | washing feet |
| Saviour | on a cross |

Mark 10:10

“came not to be served but to serve” 19

#3 Outward posture does not compromise our EQUALITY.

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:11

“(with respect to our “new self” in Christ) there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”

- **Relevance** - It is **WRONG** to equate posture or role with status, or worth in the family or church. 20

- Subjection does not regard others only as equals but even as “**more important**” than themselves.
- Subjection is an inner “**attitude**” that motivates an outward posture in relationships.
- Subjection lays aside personal rights and takes the role of a humble “**bond-servant**”.
- Subjection carries this self sacrifice to the point of “**death**”.



21

Realistic Expectation #1

Romans 12:1-2

- Take your baptism seriously because God will.
- To follow Christ we must carry a cross.



“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **so that you may prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” 22

Realistic Expectation #2

- The direction we face will influence the path we take.
- Direction decisions set the stage for good detail decisions.



23

Implications

- This is a fundamental part of the **GOSPEL**.
- It calls us to lay aside our cultural **FEARS** based on stereotypes (taste, temperament, education, economics, race, gender, etc). and put on our new life as one new body in one **NEW HOME**.
- This **STARTS BY FACING** in the right direction, renewing right priorities, and stepping out with the right spirit.



24

1 Corinthians 1:18

“The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

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