

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 36



Voluntary Surrender

Read: I Peter 2:13-18, Romans 13:1-7

Rules Were Made to Be Broken

“What a great game!” Allen shouted as the team piled into the locker room. “And they said we couldn’t beat North!”

“We really showed them!” Darren boasted. “I think we owe it to ourselves to celebrate. Any ideas?”

“Let’s go over to my house,” Tom suggested. “I know my parents won’t care, and there’s plenty of food.”

Most of the team agreed it was a good idea, but Andy killed some of their enthusiasm. “You know how strict Coach is about keeping the training rules. He doesn’t even allow exceptions for celebrating spectacular wins.”

“Quit being a wet blanket, Davidson,” Tom challenged. “Rules were made to be broken.”

“You guys go on without me,” Andy responded, a little reluctantly.

“Sure thing. But you’ll be missing a great time!” Tom retorted.



No Exceptions

“Forget it, Andrea. My parents won’t let me go,” Lisa reminded her.

“Can’t you talk to them again?” Andrea pleaded. “Maybe they’ll change their minds. The whole youth group will be there, and it won’t be the same without you.”

“You know my dad. He’s so inflexible.” Lisa tried to imitate his bass voice. “Your curfew is midnight, young lady. No exceptions.”

Andrea laughed at Lisa’s poor imitation. “There are ways of getting around parents’ rules, you know.”

“I know. But I’d rather not.”

“Too bad. I’m going to miss you.”

Andy and Lisa may not have realized it, but they were doing God’s will. They chose to obey the rules. In other words, they submitted to authority, which the Bible labels as God’s will.

Digging Deeper

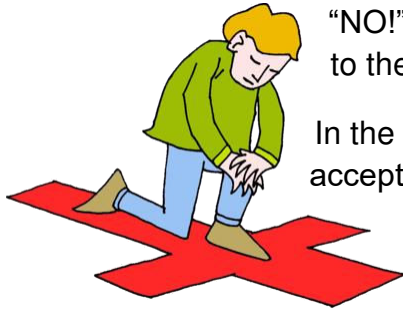
day of visitation – when Christ returns to take all the saved to be with Him forever

submit – willingly yield or surrender; obey, be subject to

ordinance – law or rule; authorities who govern over us

Submission Defined

Submission, or yielding to someone else’s decisions, is not a popular idea today. It tends to grate against our natural, me-first attitudes. Submission says, “Obey.” And we shout back, “NO!” Submission implies giving up our rights, and we defiantly hold on to them.



In the New Testament, however, submission means a voluntary acceptance of someone else’s position over us. In order to live harmoniously, we need various levels of authority in our churches, on our job, at school, and in our government. But submission doesn’t mean we’re inferior to those who have authority over us.

Even Jesus Christ submitted to God the Father, although He is equal to the Father: *For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him who sent Me (John 6:38).*

Submission in Everyday Life

Peter told his readers to submit to, or obey, the king and governors. If he were writing to us today, he would refer to the president (or our Constitution) or another national ruler. He is also talking about those whose responsibility is making sure the laws of our country are obeyed. What he says about submission applies to state and local government officials, school principals, police officers, teachers, coaches, etc. Peter plainly wrote that such submission is God’s will. God Himself established governments and institutions to maintain order in society and to punish those who disobey the rules or laws.

So, whenever you obey those in authority over you, you are obeying God. As a result, your behavior is a witness to those who oppose Christians. They won’t be able to point a finger at you and accuse you of rebellion or disobedience. *Having your conversation (behavior, life-*

style) honest among the Gentiles (unsaved friends or neighbors): that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation (1 Pet. 2:12).

Food for Thought

In order to do God's will by submitting to those in authority over you, keep in mind the following principles:

1. First, submit yourself to Christ as Lord of all your life. It's easier to obey those over you when you're trying to please God.
2. Be willing to give up your own rights to help others.
3. Remember Christ's example. When He was junior-high age, He submitted to His earthly parents (Luke 2:51). As He prayed about dying for us on the cross, He submitted to His heavenly Father to die for our sins (Matt. 26:39).
4. Respect the office or position, even if you don't agree with the person who holds it. **If man's rules or laws violate your Christian principles and/or God's commands in the Bible, then you must obey God rather than man** (see Daniel 6:1-10).
5. Recognize that God puts authorities in your life to establish social order and to protect you.
6. When you don't agree with someone in authority over you, talk about the situation one-on-one. Work on the problem; don't attack the person. Ask forgiveness when you are wrong (in attitude as well as behavior). Try to reach an agreeable solution. If that's not possible, surrender your rights and obey as long as doing so doesn't violate God's laws.
7. Pray for those in authority over you. Also pray that you'll have a good attitude toward them.
8. Remember that someday you'll answer to God for how you obeyed and respected the people He put over you. *So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God (Rom. 14:12).*



Living The Lesson

What authorities are directly over you? List three below. Then briefly describe how you should act toward each. An example is given to get you started.

Authority

Actions

Basketball coach

Follow the training rules, get to practice on time, play my best

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

To whom do you have the most trouble submitting?

In your own words, write down one thought from the Scripture reading that will help you in your relationship with that person/persons.

Memory Verse

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people.



Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-peter/>

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Lesson 36 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/Y6RmfyD4Vy7Z9xL36>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. Define submission in your own words: _____

2. Why is it often difficult to submit to those in authority over you? _____

3. True/False: People in positions of authority are superior to those under them.
4. List two reasons why God established authorities.
 1. _____
 2. _____
5. True/False. God commands everyone to submit to authorities, not just certain people.
6. Describe one situation in which Jesus submitted to authority. _____

7. How can biblical submission to authorities be a testimony for Christ? _____

8. Fill in the Blanks. _____ yourselves to every _____
of man for _____ sake (1 Pet. 2:13).
9. Multiple Choice. What should you do when you don't agree with someone in authority over you? (circle one)
 - A. Complain to everyone who will listen.
 - B. Try to reach an agreeable solution.
 - C. Argue until you get your way.
10. When should you **not** obey an authority who is over you? _____
