

Christian Spiritual Disciplines

THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION - "Take up your cross"

- a. Submit yourselves to God! (James 4:7; Heb. 12:9)
- b. Submission = freedom from always needing our own way. It is the path to wisdom (James 3:17).
- c. Self-denial vs. self-hatred = putting others' interests above our own vs. self-pity
- d. Jesus practiced submission. (Heb. 5:7). Kenosis – emptying yourself (Phil. 2:3-9).
- e. Taking up your cross is the path of submission (Mark 8:34).
- f. Submit to the **Holy Spirit** (Rom 8:6-8).



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- g. Submit to the government (Romans 13:1; Heb. 13:17; 2 Peter 2:13-18).
- h. Submit to Church leadership (1 Cor. 16:15-16).
- i. Submit to those whom society has placed over you (Eph. 5:21-27; 1 Cor. 14:33-34; 1 Tim. 2:11; 1 Pet. 5:5).
- j. The Limits of Submission (Foster, 121). Is there a room for righteous rebellion? Revolution? When is the doctrine of submission being used to subjugate others?



“Revolutionary subordination
commands us to live in
submission to human
authority until it becomes
destructive.” (Forster, 124)



THE DISCIPLINE OF SERVICE – “Take up your towel”

- The principle of service. “Love one another.”

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Gal. 5:13

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. Eph. 6:7

The Gift of Service.

- a. Obedience is too often overlooked in the Protestant emphasis on Grace over and against Law. The Apostle John especially calls us to a life of obedience. (2 John 1:6; cf 1 John “obey his commands”)
- b. The Example of Service. “Foot-washing” (John 13:14-17).
- c. The Command to Service and Humility (Deut 13:4; Matt. 20:25-28).
- d. Every Gift of the Spirit must be used in service to others in the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).
- e. There is a specific gift of service as well (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:28).
- f. Leadership is a position of service not power (1 Pet. 5:1-3).

The Gift of Service.

- g. Paul considered his own title to be “servant of Christ” (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; cf 1&2 Corinthians). Yet even Paul’s servitude was ultimately a gift of grace from God (Eph. 3:7).
- h. As servants we are called to avoid disputes (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
- i. Types of Service:
 - i. Service of small things.
 - ii. Service of being served.
 - iii. Service of common courtesy.
 - iv. Service of hospitality.
 - v. Service of listening.
 - vi. Service of bearing each other’s burdens.
 - vii. Service of sharing the gospel