

-- My Interests

^{ESV} **Philippians 2:1** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

-- My Self!

^{ESV} **1 Thessalonians 2:7** But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. ¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

- Who We Submit...

...to:

those who devote themselves to the service of the saints (1 Cor 16:16)
Christ, as the head of the church (Eph 5:24)
God (James 4:7)
(the) elders (1 Pet 5:5)

...not to:

those who cause divisions (Rom 16:17)
those who insist on anti-gospel practices (Gal 2:5)
those who have set their minds on earthly things (Phil 3:19)
those who promote self-made religion (Col 2:20)

What is your responsibility in relation to the characteristics of order and submission?

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Danny Capon, *Pastor*

A Theology of Community

No. 8 | Order and Submission

Selected Scriptures

Review

A Theology of Community

A people with a shared identity and mutual responsibility

The Bible helps us think about community well:

God is, as the Triune God, a community in Himself, existing perfectly, eternally.

Humans have been made in His likeness and created in community with Him and each other.

Sin has affected human community so that we are naturally set against God and each other.

Israel was formed by God as His set apart community, but they failed to live faithfully as His people and demonstrated their need for salvation.

The Gospel announces who Jesus Christ is and what He has done in order to save people from their sins, and anyone who believes in Him is brought into community with God and His people.

The Church is the special community of Jesus Christ made up of everyone who believes in Him and lived out in local gatherings of believers, committed to helping each other grow in Him.

What are the characteristics of the church's community, and are there any corresponding responsibilities for those within its community?

Unity and Diversity
Authority and Necessity

Order and Submission

Is the church's community a free-for-all? Is it a have-it-your-way community? Is it a come-and-go-as-you-please community? Is it a no rules, just right sort of community?

What does it mean that the church has order?

Order

What does order mean?

- Our English word *order* (noun) means, "arrangement of things in which one thing, or each of a number of things, follows another," etc. (Oxford)

- A representative passage in the New Testament regarding *order*:

^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 14:40** But all things should be done decently and in order.

- Paul is giving instruction to the (local) church in Corinth when they “**come together**” as a church (v. 26; cf. v. 23), regarding how they conduct themselves “**in church**” (v. 35; cf. v. 28).
- Narrowly, what he says, here, in v. 40 applies to the way they build up the rest of the church (v. 39; cf. v. 26); and, it also applies more broadly to “all things” done in the church.
 - ...For God is not a God of confusion but of peace (v. 33)
 - ...As in all the churches of the saints (v. 33)

decently (Rom 13:13) and in **order** (Col 2:5)

What are we talking about with regard to order and the local church?

- Order in **Structure**

- Head and Body
 - ^{ESV} **Colossians 2:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.
- Members of a Family
 - ^{ESV} **1 Timothy 5:1** Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father. Treat younger men like brothers,² older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity.
- Leaders and Followers
 - ^{ESV} **Ephesians 4:11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Levels of Maturity
 - ^{ESV} **Philippians 3:15** Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

- Order in **Conduct**

- In keeping with...
 - ...our roles (e.g. 1 Cor 11-14)
 - ...the truth (e.g. 1 Tim 3:14-15)
 - ^{ESV} **1 Timothy 3:14** I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that,¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.
 - ...what is consistent (e.g. “**walk worthy**...”)
 - ...with our calling (Eph 4:1)
 - ...with the gospel (Phil 1:27)
 - ...with the Lord (Col 1:1)

...with God (1 Thess 2:12)

- ...those who are *disorderly*
 - ^{ESV} **Romans 16:17** I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

Order’s only as good as those who give themselves to it rightly...

Submission

What does submission mean?

- Our English word *submit* (submission) ultimately comes from Latin *submittere*, from *sub-* “under” + *mittere* “send, put” (Oxford)
- to put my mission under someone else’s mission**
- A representative passage in the New Testament regarding *submission*:
 - ^{ESV} **Ephesians 5:21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - Paul is giving instruction to the (local) church in Ephesus regarding how they ought to “walk” (v. 15), which applies to their walk with “one another” (v. 19), and their individual family lives (cf. vv. 22-33).
 - They are to imitate God, by walking in love (v. 2), walking in the light (v. 9), and walking in wisdom (v. 15), which impacts the way they address one another (v. 19), sing and make melody, give thanks (v. 20), and submit to one another (v. 21).

to one another out of reverence for Christ

It doesn’t necessarily mean...

What are we talking about with regard to submission and the local church?

- What We Submit
 - My Opinions
 - ^{ESV} **Romans 14:1** As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.
 - My “Rights”
 - ^{ESV} **1 Corinthians 8:7** However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.