

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
"Good News 101 – Basic Essentials of Faith & GNC Vision, Mission, and Values"
Humble Submission
Drue Warner
10-5-25

OVERVIEW – We're talking about who we are as a church, what we believe, and what difference what we believe makes in our lives.

- **Vision** – *"to experience and express LOVE from God and to others."*
 - **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*
- **Mission** – Our mission is *"to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship."*

THE GOOD NEWS

- **G.R.A.C.E. = God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. - 2 Corinthians 8:9
- *"God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:21*

GNC BELIEFS

1. I'm really broken and I need help.
2. Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
3. Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
5. **God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church**

LAST WEEK... 4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.

5. God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

Sermon Series "Uncomfortable" (Fall 2023)

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|---------------|--------------|
| ▪ Sin | ▪ Repentance |
| ▪ Evangelism | ▪ Submission |
| ▪ Stewardship | |

Which one of those words makes you most uncomfortable? Submission

What is submission (definition)?

- to yield oneself to the authority or will of another; to permit oneself to be subjected to someone or something; willful obedience to another; humility

Why does “submission” make us uncomfortable?

- Giving up Control
- Operating in Weakness
- Making ourselves Vulnerable

Why do we resist submission?

- Pride

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, **ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.** But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ – Jeremiah 6:16

I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. **Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.** But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward. From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.’ – Jeremiah 7:23-26

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: **“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength,** but you would have none of it. – Isaiah 30:15

Why does God want us to submit?

- Submission is the way of God (the Trinity), it’s the way of love, and specifically, it’s the way of Jesus.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, **he made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** by **becoming obedient** to death— even death on a cross! – Philipians 2:5-8

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **not my will, but yours be done.**” – Luke 22:42

Submission as a way of life looks like:

- Lifting others up
- Giving away credit
- Putting others first
- Taking the worst seat
- Going last
- Flying standby :)

▪ **Submission is for our good.**

“... Submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:5b-7

“The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise.” - Psalm 51:17

We live in a universe that we don’t control. God does.

- *“This is God’s universe, and He is doing things His way. You may think you have a better way, but you don’t have a universe.”*
– J. Vernon McGee (commentary on Ephesians)
- We think we are more than we are, but *“take heed lest ye fall”*
(1 Cor. 10:12)

What are the compelling reasons (benefits) that would motivate us to submit?

▪ **Protection**

“The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” – Proverbs 18:10

▪ **Help**

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
– Psalm 46:1

▪ **Freedom**

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.” – Psalm 32:8

- Dog off leash at Suwanee Town Center Park
- Commands: *“With me, Leave it, Good girl!”*

- **Rest**
 - “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you (submission)** and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.**” – Matthew 11:28-29
 - **Did you know...** The only character words that Jesus ever used to describe himself were “*gentle and humble.*”

To whom should we submit?

- Spouse (Ephesians 5)
- Children > Parents (Ephesians 6)
- Government Authorities (Romans 13),
- Boss at Work (Ephesians 6)
- **Jesus > The Church, His Authority on the earth** (Titus 3, Hebrews 13)

Church family

I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. – Jeremiah 3:15

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” - Hebrews 13:17

Church Leaders

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. – Acts 20:28

- ***Episkopos* / overseer (Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3, 1 Peter 2)**

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. - 1 Peter 5:1-3

- ***Presbýteros* / elders (1 Peter 5)**
properly, a *mature man* having seasoned judgment (experience); an *elder*. The NT specifies elders are *men*. (The feminine singular, *presbytera*, never occurs in the Bible.)

Purpose of Submission

In addition to protection, help, freedom, and rest... growth

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13

“We all” = Team

“There’s no I in TEAM. But there is in WIN.” – Michael Jordan :)

Christianity is not a solo activity. It’s a team sport. It’s a family!

- Ultimately, the Church is the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ, and if you’re a Christian, you’re called to be a part of it.
- “When we submit ourselves to Christ and to His Church, we go from a “me” Christianity to a “we” Christianity.” – Jean Larroux III (“Don’t Swear in Church – Unless You Really Mean It”)

Motivation to Submission

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. – Romans 12:1

- There is freedom in submission, because we no longer have to judge whether or not we’re going to obey.

And THAT’S Good News!