

Metro Women's Bible Study

1 Peter 2:18-19

Lesson 7

At first glance, one may assume this section of 1 Peter relates only to slaves. Although slavery has been abolished, relationships with authority have not. How do you react when you have been wronged or mistreated by someone who has authority over you? The verses in this lesson provide not only the answer, but the example. May you be challenged to follow the example of Jesus, who *committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Peter 2:18-19

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Peter 2:18-19 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

2. How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.
After titling this section, record a title for Chapter 2.

3. The **Key Words** and **Symbol Chart** has been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

From previous lessons: *God and Jesus (Christ)*

New to this lesson: *servants and suffer(ed/ing)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 2:18-25. Remember, as you mark the words *God*, *Jesus*, and *servants* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

4. Go through 1 Peter 2:18-19 and record the verses that reveal "**Truths About God, Truths About the Believer, and Instructions.**"

5. Practical instruction concerning Christian conduct is given in 1 Peter 2:18-20. Read these verses for review! In the previous verses from Chapter Two we learned about our conduct in relationship to civil authorities. What relationship does Peter address in 1 Peter 2:18?

a. In this verse the word **servants** refers to household or domestic slaves. The instructions given to **servants** can be applied in our culture to employer/employee relationships. With this in mind, rewrite Peter's instruction from verse 18.

5. Look up the word **submissive (subject)** in your Concordance, and write out the Greek word and the English definition.

6. This word **hupotasso** is used forty times in the New Testament, and seven times in 1 Peter alone! Listed below is every use of the word **hupotasso** in 1 Peter. Underline or highlight what you learn about submission from these passages. Keep in mind when you look at these passages, the definition of the word submit!

1 Peter 2:13-14-/submit ¹³Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers."

Who is to submit?

Why?

1 Peter 2:18/submissive ¹⁸"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable."

Who is to submit?

How?

1 Peter 3:1-2/submissive ¹"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ²as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior."

Who is to submit?

Why?

How?

1 Peter 3:5-6/submissive “⁵For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; ⁶just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

Who is to submit?

Why?

How?

1 Peter 3:21-22/subject “²¹There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

Who is to submit?

To Whom?

1 Peter 5:5a/ submit “⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders.”

Who is to submit?

1 Peter 5:5b/submissive “Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud But gives grace to the humble.*”

Who is to submit?

How?

Why?

DAY TWO & THREE:

1. Submission is **key** to being a disciple of Jesus, and a topic that can be both controversial and an irritant to our flesh! We are going to cover this topic in length so get ready to be a student of the Word! Let’s look at some additional passages on this topic that will further our understanding of submission and instill a response of obedience!

Luke 2:51 ⁴⁵Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

Who is to submit?

Luke 10:17-20 ¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. ²⁰Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Who is to be subject?

Why?

1 Corinthians 15:27-28 ²⁷For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

Who is to be subject?

To Whom?

1 Corinthians 16:15-16 ¹⁵I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—¹⁶that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*.

Who is to be subject?

To Whom?

Ephesians 5:21-22 & 24 ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

Who is to submit?

How?

Colossians 3:18 ¹⁸Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Who is to submit?

How?

Titus 2:3-5 ³the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—⁴that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Who is to submit?

Why?

Titus 2:9-10 ⁹Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Who is to submit?

How?

Why?

Titus 3:1 ¹Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work ”

Who is to submit?

Why?

James 4:7 ⁷Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Who is to submit?

Why?

2. There is another word we cannot overlook, for it also deals with **submission** as it relates to **obedience**. The word is **hupakoua**. It means **to listen or attend and therefore, to submit or obey**. There is a lot to pull out from these passages. Underline or highlight who they are to obey & how they are to obey, and any other insights you glean from these.

1 Peter 3:6 ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Ephesians 6:1 ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Colossians 3:20 ²⁰Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:5-6 ⁵Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”

Colossians 3:22 ²²Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.”

Philippians 2:12 ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

3. After **thoroughly** examining these passages on submission and obedience, let's make some personal application.

- a. What areas do you struggle with **disobedience**?
- b. Why are you struggling in the areas of disobedience that you listed above?
- c. Which of these areas are you more consistent in **obedience**?

DAY FOUR & FIVE: Read 1 Peter 2:18-20

1. Look up the word Masters from 1 Peter 2:18 in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

There are many uses of this word despot in the New Testament. Some of the references referred to a Master/Slave relationships while others referred to Jesus as Master.

2. It is essential for us understand that how we respond to Jesus as LORD and MASTER of our lives will invariably affect how we will respond in submission to other authorities. Look at the passages and answer the questions below.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

- a. What is the connection between Jesus having supreme authority in your life and the exhortation from these passages?
 - b. Let’s bring these passages a little closer to home. How do you allow Him to be Lord, Master and Supreme in Authority in your marriage, with your children, in relationships, in decisions, in finances, etc?
3. It will always be a struggle in our flesh to submit to authority until we have learned to submit to the Lord first. What does the passage below teach us about Jesus’ example towards authority and His attitude towards submission?

Luke 8:28-29 “So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. ^{29a}“And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

a. Jesus’ sole purpose while here on earth was to always do those things that would please the Father! Wouldn’t this be a great prayer for us in the morning before we step out of bed? Asking the LORD to direct our steps that in all things we would please Him? Washing the dishes, carpooling the kids, doing the laundry, serving our husbands, going the extra mile for your neighbor? Try and memorize Colossians 3:23-24 this week!

Colossians 3:23-24 ²³*Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.* ²⁴*Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ.”*

5. When we respond in obedience and submission to authority **who** are we in actuality obeying and submitting to? See the passage and answer the questions below.

Romans 13:1-7 ¹Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

Who is to submit?

Why?

6. How does knowing what this passage says, help you with the struggles you listed from Day Three question 3?

7. **Submission** does not focus on the person of authority but on their position. What kind of attitudes might develop in us **if** we focus on the authorities over us acting on their own initiative, instead of instruments God has permitted to be in position?

a. A beautiful example of this is found in the life of Joseph. His brothers consistently mistreated him and it would have been very easy for him to become bitter, yet he had a divine perspective on the whole situation and it helped him become a holy man of God. What were the words of Joseph to his brothers in **Genesis 50:15-20** and how can this example help you with someone/something you might be struggling with?

8. After looking at all the passages on submission and obedience from Day 1-5, we have learned about submission to one another, submission to authorities and most important of all submission to God. Peter brought out in 1 Peter 2:12 & 2:15, another reason why submission is important. Look at these passage and summarize what you learn.

1 Peter 2:12 ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation."

1 Peter 2:15 ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

Peter here in 1 Peter 2:18 was conveying the foundational truth that how a believer acts while under the authority of another affects how people view the message of salvation Christians proclaim. When we display a proper attitude of submission and respect, and performing quality work, we help make the gospel message believable!

9. The question is almost invariably asked in regards to submission “when is it, right and when is it wrong?” Let’s look at a few passages that will help clear up the question of when it is wrong. Read **Daniel 3:1-16**, and answer the questions below.

Who was the story about?

Who was the ruling power?

What was the charge towards the men of God?

What was their response?

How do you see that submitting to authority in this situation as wrong?

10. Read **Acts 4:13-20** and answer the questions below.

What were the circumstances of this passage?

Who was the Authority?

What was the response of the believers?

How do you see that submitting to authority in this situation as wrong?

11. Pastor Richard has used the following passage as a **test** in clarifying when dealing with the area of submission and Authority. Write out **Psalms 23:3b**.

When your husband asks you to join him in watching something that is pornographic ask yourself, “Will this lead me in the path of righteousness for His name sake?”

When your boss asks you to do something morally and ethically questionable ask yourself, “Will this lead me in the path of righteousness for His name sake?”

When you are asked to cheat or fudge on your taxes ask yourself, “Will this lead me in the path of righteousness for His name sake?”

When a Christian in authority asks you to submit, using the scriptures out of context, you need to ask the question, “Will this lead me in the path of righteousness for His name sake?”

DAY SIX: Review

1. From Day 1 you marked in your Observation Worksheets “**Truths About God, Truths About the Believer and Instructions.**” What did you learn from these?
2. What did you learn this week about the attitude of doing everything to please the Lord and not as unto man and how did this challenge you?
3. Can you recite your memory verse from Colossians 3:23?
4. What stood out to you this week about our attitude towards authority and submission?

*Dear Sisters in Christ, my heart and prayers for you this week has been that through the study of God's Word on the subject of submission, you have been both challenged and softened in your heart towards those in authority in your life. I have learned through the years that an attitude of submission is **not** easy! It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit and making a choice to surrender to Him in obedience, that submission becomes a joy and not a task! I pray that all of us have learned this week that submission is the fruit of one who is filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit. May God fill each of you with an awe of who He is and a humility to follow His example; the One who submitted Himself to the Father in everything! Love, Valerie*