

Submitting to Authority - Colossians 3:20-4:1 - September 1st, 2019

- I want to talk with you today about God's ordained authority structure and why it is in our best interest to be in submission to it.
- Here in our text this morning, the Apostle Paul continues his exhortation concerning marriage, the family, and the work place.
- For those who are interested in a more in-depth study on these topics, you can go to our website archives from Ephesians 6.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the main reasons we as Christians have conflict and chaos, this would be it.
- Husbands don't submit to the Lord, wives don't submit to their husbands, children their parents, or employees their employers.
- By way of an illustration, it would be like removing the lines and signs on a freeway that are there to keep everything in order.

- Sadly, many a Christian family and Christian church with it, has needlessly suffered the consequences that will always ensue.
- Thankfully, today's text provides us with much-needed hope and encouragement for our marriages, families, and our careers.
- However, in order to bring order back into our Christian lives, there might first need to be change in how we view everything.

- While I realize this may seem like an oversimplification, the truth of the matter is everything we do is for the Lord not for man.

- In verse 20, children are to obey their parents because it's pleasing to the Lord
- In verse 22, employees are to be sincere because it's out of reverence for the Lord
- In verse 23, we're to work with all our heart because we're working as unto the Lord
- In verse 24, we're to submit to authority knowing we'll receive an inheritance from the Lord

- This is why we're to submit to the authority God has placed in our lives, but the question becomes how is it possible to do this.
- Simply put, the answer to that question is that it's only possible by way of the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.
- It's important to note that when Paul writes about this to the Ephesians, it's in the context of not grieving the Holy Spirit of God.

- The reason I point this out is because absent our being filled with the Holy Spirit, we have no hope of living the Spirit filled life.
- Let me hasten to say that we do err greatly when we focus on the gifts of the Spirit at the expense of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Perhaps it's because gifts can be given instantly, whereas with fruit, it takes time in order for it to grow and ripen in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- In closing, I would like to offer a word of encouragement that it's never too late or too bad for the Lord to turn everything around.
- Yes, growing fruit takes time, but God is the God of time, and oftentimes He may deem it fit to intervene in a supernatural way.
- However, there is a prerequisite and it's that of persistently and humbly seeking the Lord in prayer and crying out to the Lord.

Luke 11:9-13 - 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"