

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Paul explores the concept of submission within the church community, drawing primarily from Ephesians 5:21 - "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." He explains that biblical submission is not about control or manipulation, but rather a voluntary commitment to line up under authority for a greater purpose. Unlike the world's negative view of submission, Christian submission is unique because it's voluntary and focused on commitment rather than control, following Jesus's example of submitting to the Father's will.

The pastor emphasizes that true submission is only possible when believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, and the motivation for submission should be reverence for Christ and His sacrifice. He illustrates how submission leads to church growth through biblical examples and personal stories, challenging the congregation to examine whether they're willing to set aside their own desires and past experiences to align with God's greater vision. The sermon concludes by describing how a healthy church is characterized by people who embody Christ-like submission - giving up their seats, asking what others prefer, serving in the shadows, and prioritizing others' needs above their own.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the concept of submission, we ask that You would open our hearts to Your truth. Help us to see submission through Your eyes rather than through the lens of our past experiences or the world's perspective. Just as Jesus submitted to Your will out of love, teach us to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. May our discussion today lead us to a deeper understanding of how we can honor You by the way we relate to one another. Guide our conversation and help us to apply what we learn to our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

When you were a child, who was someone you really looked up to and respected? What qualities did they have that earned your admiration?

## Key Verses

1. Ephesians 5:21
2. Philippians 2:5-11
3. John 6:38
4. Matthew 26:39

## Questions

1. How would you define submission in your own words? How does the pastor's definition of submission as "a conscious effort by Christians to line up under the authority of another to achieve a greater purpose" challenge or affirm your understanding?

2. The pastor mentions that submission in the Bible is voluntary and about commitment, not control. How does this differ from how the world typically views submission?
3. In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to practice submission? Why do you think that is?
4. How does Jesus model submission in His relationship with the Father? What can we learn from His example?
5. The sermon states that the Holy Spirit is the means of submission. How does being filled with the Spirit enable us to submit to one another?
6. The pastor asks, "Will you allow your past to define what could be possible today?" How might past experiences with authority affect our ability to practice healthy submission?
7. What are some practical ways we can practice submission in our church community? How might this impact church growth?
8. How does submitting to one another actually reflect the character of Christ to the world around us?

## Life Application

This week, identify one relationship or situation where you tend to insist on your own way or preferences. Make a conscious decision to practice submission by asking what the other person thinks, wants, or prefers before expressing your own opinion. When you feel resistance rising within you, pause and remember Christ's example of submission. Journal about your experience - what was challenging about it? What did you learn? How did it affect the relationship? Come prepared next week to share how this exercise impacted your understanding of Christ-like submission.

## Key Takeaways

1. Biblical submission is not about control but voluntary commitment to line up under authority for a greater purpose.
2. True submission is only possible when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, who enables us to put others before ourselves.
3. Our motivation for submission should be reverence for Christ and His sacrificial example.
4. Healthy church growth happens when members submit to one another, putting the needs of others before their own desires.
5. Submission reflects Christ's character to the world and demonstrates what it means to follow Jesus.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for modeling perfect submission in Your relationship with the Father. You showed us that submission isn't weakness but strength rooted in love and commitment to a greater purpose. Forgive us for the times we've resisted submitting to one another out of pride, fear, or past hurts. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we might have the power to follow Your example. Help us to create a church community where submission is practiced with joy, where we willingly put others before ourselves, and where Your love is evident in how we treat one another. May our submission to one another bring glory to Your name and draw others to know You. In Jesus' name, amen.