

When Submission Is Sin

Acts 5:12-42

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every

_____.”

— 1 Peter 2:13

(See also Romans 13:1-7; Colossians 3:20;
Titus 2:9-10; 3:1-2; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:14-15; 3:1-2)

BUT

“We must obey _____ rather than _____.”

— Acts 5:29

(See also Acts 4:19)

“To be sure, Christians are called to be conscientious citizens and generally speaking, to submit to human authorities. But if the authority concerned misuses its God-given power to command what He forbids or forbid what He commands, then the Christian’s duty is to disobey the human authority in order to obey God’s [authority].”

— John Stott

Transformed by the Truth

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. How do you feel about the concept of “submission”? Do you believe in it? Why or why not?
2. Read the following passages: Romans 13:1-2; Colossians 3:20; Titus 2:9-10; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:14-15, and 1 Peter 3:1-2. Are you in full submission to every human authority God has placed over you? With what authority do you struggle the most? Why?
3. Read Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:28-29. Is there any area of your life in which you are sinning against God by submitting to someone else? In what arena are you most vulnerable to this temptation?
4. The following passages are addressed to those in positions of authority: Ephesians 5:25; 6:4; Colossians 3:19; 4:1; 1 Peter 3:7; 5:2-3. Over whom has God given you authority? How are you using your authority to help others obey God? In what ways do you tend to abuse your authority?
5. Read Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18 and 20:21. Do you believe that a person must repent in order to receive eternal life? How would you define repentance? Have you done it?