WEEK 10

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 5:15–21; Matthew 8:5–13

BIG TRUTH

As followers of Christ, we are called to humbly submit to one another, willingly setting aside our own preferences and self-interest out of reverence for Him.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Ephesians 5:15–21 and Matthew 8:5–13. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how submission to Christ shapes the way we relate to one another. Pay attention to the connection between being filled with the Holy Spirit, honoring Christ's authority, and willingly putting the needs of others before our own.

Submission Flows from the Spirit
Paul describes a Spirit-filled life as one marked by worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. Unlike our natural tendency to put ourselves first, mutual submission grows as we yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Submission Honors the Lord
The centurion understood both what it meant to have authority and to live under authority. Kingdom submission is more than recognizing someone's position; it is a posture of humility and trust under Christ's lordship. All human authority remains accountable to Jesus.

Submission Springs from Faith
We can yield because we trust Christ's goodness and rule. However, trusting Christ does not mean submitting to everything others ask of us. Submission is never permission for abuse, coercion, sin, or silencing. As Scripture reminds us, "*We must obey God rather than people*" (Acts 5:29). This remains a biblical boundary.

Doctrine: What We Believe
Jesus is Lord and Head of the church. Because we belong to Him, our mutual submission should be rooted in reverence for Christ, governed by Scripture, and expressed through humility. This also shapes how we understand and exercise authority. Biblical authority is a stewardship expressed through service, never an opportunity for domination (Mark 10:42–45; 1 Peter 5:1–4).

Supplemental Passages: Philippians 2:3–8 • Mark 10:42–45 • Acts 5:27–29 • 1 Peter 5:1–5 • Hebrews 13:17

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. What evidence of a Spirit-filled life do you see in Ephesians 5:18–21?

2. What did the centurion understand about authority and trust?

3. What boundaries do Acts 5:29 and Mark 10 place around human authority?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. Where do pride or fear make it difficult for you to yield to others?

2. Whose wisdom, needs, or preferences should you consider more carefully?

3. Are you using authority to serve others or to control outcomes and people?

4. Is someone asking you to participate in something sinful, unsafe, manipulative, or abusive? What support or guidance do you need?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
In one everyday decision this week that doesn't involve sin or compromise your safety, invite another believer's perspective and willingly set aside your preference for their good. If you hold authority, ask those under your care how your leadership impacts them.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. What does your response to inconvenience reveal about your trust in Jesus?

2. How might mutual submission change conflict in your group or home?

3. Where do you need to listen before insisting?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Holy Spirit, bring me under Christ's good rule and form in me a humble, listening, yielded heart.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for: