# **SUBMISSION**

Since rebellion is abounding in these last days, especially in this country where "independence" is so highly extolled, it is not surprising that submission would be a problem to many. In addition, there is a misunderstanding regarding the difference between obedience and submission – they are not the same!

## Hebrews 13:17

"Obey your leaders, and submit {to them} for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

Notice the two are separate in this verse. Obedience is an outward response or action in accordance with our authorities' instructions, whereas submission is the inward heart issue or attitude towards authority. We can be obedient in our actions while having a bad attitude; or we can agree to do something, but procrastinate and never get around to doing it. Both are rebellion.

The Lord is concerned with our heart's attitude in all things (1 Corinthians 4:4-5). We are to be obedient to Him from the heart (Matthew 22:37). It follows we would be expected to be obedient in the same way to those to whom He has delegated His authority – those in authority over us. This is a protection and limits the devil's access to us.

#### James 4:7

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Additionally, when we posture our lives to submit in this way, we will prosper and the devil won't be able to steal from us.

### Isaiah 1:19-20

"If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land;

But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.' Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The Lord is looking for unconditional submission, but not necessarily unconditional obedience. We are always to be submitted to our authorities in our heart, but if our authorities ask us to do something that is sin or totally against scripture, we must obey God and not men.

#### Acts 4:18-20

"And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."