Submission to the Life of a Believer

Principles and Practical Applications from 1 Peter 2:11–4:6

Central truth: Jesus Christ is Lord. Biblical submission places every part of life under His authority so that others can see the difference He makes.

1. Live Honorably as a Citizen *1 Peter 2:11-17*

Principle: Our citizenship is in heaven, but God calls us to honor Him through responsible conduct in this world.

- Resist sinful desires; obey lawful authority; pray for leaders; use Christian freedom to serve rather than excuse selfishness; show honor to everyone, love the church, and fear God.

Ask: *Does my public conduct strengthen or weaken my witness for Christ?*

2. Work Faithfully and Entrust Injustice to God *1 Peter 2:18-25*

Principle: Christians work for the Lord and follow Christ's example when treated unfairly.

- Be honest and dependable even when no one is watching. Refuse dishonest or sinful orders. When wronged, tell the truth and seek what is right without returning insult, threat, or revenge. Remember that Christ is your Shepherd and God judges justly.

Ask: *Would my work and my response to unfairness identify me as a follower of Jesus?*

3. Make Christ Visible at Home *1 Peter 3:1-7*

Principle: The gospel should be most believable to the people who know us best.

- Cultivate inner character. Place hope in God rather than fear. Wives should honor God's order; husbands should listen, understand, protect, provide, and honor their wives as coheirs of grace. Pray together, admit hurt, ask forgiveness, and refuse to take family members for granted.

Ask: *Can the people in my home see Christ changing the way I treat them?*

4. Bless Others and Pursue Peace *1 Peter 3:8-12*

Principle: Believers should show unity, sympathy, family love, compassion, and humility, especially when relationships become difficult.

- Do not repay evil or insult in kind. Guard your tongue. Turn from evil, actively do good, and pursue peace without compromising truth. Before speaking or sending a message, ask whether your words are truthful, necessary, and pleasing to Christ.

Ask: *When I am hurt, who rules my response: the injury or Jesus Christ?*

5. Settle Who Is Lord Before Opposition Comes *1 Peter 3:13-17*

Principle: Courage grows when Christ is greater in our hearts than the person or problem we fear.

- Regard Christ as Lord each morning. Prepare a simple explanation of the gospel and your hope. Answer questions with conviction, gentleness, and respect. Keep a clear conscience so criticism cannot truthfully describe your conduct.

Ask: *Can I explain why I trust Jesus, and does my manner honor Him?*

6. Interpret Suffering Through Christ's Victory *1 Peter 3:18-22*
Principle: Christ suffered once for sins, rose, ascended, and reigns; therefore suffering is not the same as defeat.

- Do not measure faithfulness by comfort, quick results, or majority approval. Remember Noah. Trust the risen Christ when you feel outnumbered. If you have believed but have not followed Christ in believer's baptism, obey Him publicly.

Ask: *Am I judging Christ by today's pain, or today's pain by the victory of Christ?*

7. Give the Remaining Time to God's Will *1 Peter 4:1-6*
Principle: Because Christ has changed us, the old life no longer owns the time God gives us.

- Arm your mind before temptation comes. Refuse to become comfortable with sin. Expect some people to question your changed life, but keep loving them and sharing Christ. Remember that everyone will give an account to God and that death cannot cancel the believer's hope.

Ask: *Who is receiving my remaining time: my old desires or the will of God?*

A Daily Review for the Submitted Life

- **Morning:** Lord, my mind, my desires, my relationships, my reputation, my suffering, and my remaining time belong to You.
- **In public:** Live honorably and respectfully so your conduct supports your witness.
- **At work:** Work faithfully for Christ, especially when supervision or circumstances are difficult.
- **At home:** Listen, understand, honor, forgive, and make Christ visible to those closest to you.
- **When hurt:** Pause before speaking. Refuse retaliation. Bless, seek peace, and entrust justice to God.
- **When afraid:** Regard Christ as Lord. Remember that He is risen and every power is subject to Him.
- **When asked:** Explain your hope in Jesus with truth, gentleness, and respect.
- **At day's end:** Thank God for grace, confess where another desire ruled you, make matters right, and give tomorrow to Christ.

The gospel that makes this life possible

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:18 CSB)

Christian conduct cannot save us. Jesus Christ saves sinners who repent and place their faith in Him. The submitted life begins when we receive Christ as Lord and Savior, and it grows as His grace reshapes every part of our daily life.

Jesus Christ is Lord.