



"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth."

Submission.

TO whom do we owe unqualified submission?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God." James 4:7.

2. Why are we under obligation to submit to God?

"Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, . . . I have made the earth, and created man upon it. . . . There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." Isa. 45:11-22.

3. What constitutes submission to God?

"Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:5.

4. What will be the condition of one who is thus submissive to God?

He will be "*filled with the knowledge of his will* in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Col. 1:9.

5. What is the will of God?

"For this is the will of God, even *your sanctification*." 1 Thess. 4:3. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, *arm yourselves likewise with the same mind*; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." 1 Peter 4:1, 2.



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"We Will not * * Worship the Golden Image
which Thou Hast Set Up."

6. What is fulfilled in us when we live not in the flesh?

"That *the righteousness of the law* might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:4.

7. Then what is the course of one who is submissive to God?

He walks after the Spirit, *i. e.*, brings forth the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5: 22-24), or in other words fulfills "the righteousness of the law," which constitutes the will of God. 1 Peter 4: 2.

8. What should we bring into subjection to God?

"But I keep under *my body* and bring it into subjection." 1 Cor. 9: 27. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12: 1. "Bringing into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10: 5. "Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6: 20.

9. Which member of the body requires the greatest exertion, together with the grace of God, to bring into subjection?

"*The tongue* can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 3: 8, 2.

10. What is the prayer of one who is submissive to God?

"Thy will be done." Matt. 6: 10.

11. How was submission exemplified in the life of Christ?

"He [Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2: 8. "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isa. 53: 7. Read Matt. 27: 26-50, which gives an account of the trial of Jesus before Pilate, and his crucifixion.

12. To what other authority must we be submissive?

"I beseech you, brethren (ye know the house of Stephanus, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints), . . . that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboreth." 1 Cor. 16: 15, 16. "Obey them that have the rule over you." Heb. 13: 17.

NOTE. — That Heb. 13: 17 has reference to church authorities, is seen from verse 7, and from what follows in verse 17.

13. Why is it well for us to be submissive to church authorities?

"*For they watch for your souls*, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief." Heb. 13: 17.

14. What is said about submission to worldly powers and authorities?

"Put them in mind *to be subject* to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates." Titus 3: 1.

15. Why are we required to do this?

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. *For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.* Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." Rom. 13:1, 2. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, . . . for so is the will of God." 1 Peter 2:13-15.

16. Does Peter mean that we should submit to the ordinances of men, even when these are contrary to the express command of God?

Let Peter himself answer. "*We ought to obey God rather than men.*" Acts 5:29. "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." Acts 4:19.

17. What noted example have we of obedience or submission to God rather than man?

The three worthies in the fiery furnace. Read the third chapter of Daniel.

18. Then what is really meant by being subject to worldly rulers and ordinances of men?

"For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying; namely, *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*" Rom. 13:9.

NOTE. — Men's duties under civil government pertain solely to the government and to their fellow-citizens. The words of Christ, "Render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's," entirely separate what pertains to God from what pertains to the government. In accordance with this, Paul, after quoting five of the ten commandments, says, "If there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying; namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." That is to say, If there be any other commandment which comes within the relations of man to the civil government, it is comprehended in the saying that he shall love his neighbor as himself. As the ten commandments contain the whole duty of man; and as, in this divine record of men's relations to the powers that be, the first four commandments are definitely excluded, it follows that none of the duties enjoined in the first four commandments do men owe to the powers that be.

19. How do we stand related to one another with regard to submission?

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. *Yea, all of you, be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility.*" 1 Peter 5:5.

20. What seems to be the reason for this requirement?

Submission cultivates humility, a Christian virtue of high value. It is the humble to whom God "giveth grace," and whom he will in due time exalt. Verses 5, 6.

21. What should be the attitude of a wife to her husband?

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands." Col. 3:18.

22. What is this submission?

"To be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands." Titus 2:4, 5.

23. Does this submission permit domination on the part of the husband?

"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Col. 3:19.
"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church." Eph. 5:25.

24. How far should a wife submit to her husband?

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, *as it is fit in the Lord.*" Col. 3:18.

25. In what should children be submissive to parents?

"Children, obey your parents *in all things*; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Col. 3:20.

26. What is said about the submission of servants to masters?

"Servants, *obey in all things your masters* according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." Col. 3:22.

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IF, through unruffled seas,
Calmly toward heaven we sail,
With grateful hearts, O God, to thee,
We'll own the favoring gale.

But should the surges rise,
And rest delay to come,
Blest be the sorrow, kind the storm,
Which drives us nearer home.

Soon shall our doubts and fears
All yield to thy control;
Thy tender mercies shall illumine
The midnight of the soul.

Teach us in every state,
To make thy will our own,
And when the joys of sense depart,
To live by faith alone.

AUGUSTUS M. TOPLADY.