



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

1 MARCH 2026

1 MAR SERMON

Submit to Win

PASTOR BOBBY MATHEW

Based on 1 Peter 2:11-3:14

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when "taking a step back" or yielding to someone else actually led to a better outcome than you expected.

Key Scripture Passages

- 1 Peter 2:23 - *"He was reviled, did not revile in return. When he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed himself to him who judges righteously."*
 - 1 Peter 3:9 - *"Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling. But on the contrary, blessing. Knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."*
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Main Takeaways

1. Submit Publicly, Win Credibly

Submission in public life means maintaining honorable conduct that brings glory to God, even when misunderstood or criticized.

2. Submit Under Injustice, Win God's Vindication

When we refuse revenge and commit injustice to God, He becomes our defender and judge.

3. Submit Relationally, Win Hearts

In relationships (especially marriage and family), submission means choosing to win hearts over winning arguments.

4. Submit Like Christ, Share His Triumph

Following Jesus' example of saying "not my will, but yours" leads to sharing in His ultimate victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

1. The sermon taught that "submission is not weakness." How does this challenge common cultural views of strength and power?
2. Pastor mentioned that Christians live "in the spotlight" - everything we do is observed. How does this reality affect how you approach your daily life?

3. What does it mean practically to "commit yourself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23) when facing unfair treatment?

Personal Reflection

4. **Submit Publicly:** Share an example where your Christian conduct was noticed by non-believers. What was the outcome? How did it feel?
5. **Submit Under Injustice:** Have you experienced a situation where you felt genuinely wronged? How did you respond? Looking back, what might submission to God have looked like in that moment?
6. **Submit Relationally:** The sermon emphasized winning hearts over winning arguments. Can you share about a time when you "won the argument but lost the heart"? What did you learn?
7. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said, "Not my will, but yours be done." Is there an area in your life right now where God is asking you to pray this prayer? (Career, relationships, finances, health, etc.)

Deeper Application

8. Pastor clarified that submission doesn't mean accepting abuse or never speaking up. How do we discern the difference between godly submission and enabling harmful behavior?
 9. Read 1 Peter 2:13-15 together. What does it mean to submit to "every human authority" while still maintaining our ultimate allegiance to Christ? Where might these come into tension?
 10. The sermon mentioned that submission can feel like "moving backwards" in chess but actually positions you for victory. Where in your life might God be asking you to take what looks like a "backward move" for future breakthrough?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE area to practice submission:

Option 1 - Public Witness:

Identify one situation this week where you typically react defensively or assertively. Instead, choose a Christ-like response that honors God, even if it means not defending yourself.

Option 2 - Release Injustice:

Write down a situation where you feel you've been treated unfairly. Pray through it, specifically saying, "God, I commit this to You who judges righteously." Physically tear up or burn the paper as a symbolic act of release.

Option 3 - Relational Submission:

In a key relationship (spouse, parent, child, roommate), choose to prioritize winning their heart over being right this week. Practice saying, "Help me understand your perspective" instead of defending your position.

Option 4 - Personal Surrender:

Identify one area where your will differs from what you sense God is calling you to. Spend time in prayer this week specifically praying, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

Accountability & Prayer

Sharing & Accountability:

1. Which of the four practical applications will you commit to this week?
2. What specific situation or relationship will this involve?
3. How can this group pray for you and hold you accountable?

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for the situations in the Middle East and areas of global conflict
 - Pray for strength to submit in areas where God is calling group members
 - Pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for anyone seeking this gift
 - Pray for credibility as witnesses in public life
 - Pray for hearts to be won in difficult relationships
 - Pray for God's vindication in situations of injustice
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For Further Study

- Read all of 1 Peter this week, noting every reference to submission, suffering, and vindication
 - Study Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46, Luke 22:39-46)
 - Reflect on Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ's example of submission and exaltation
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Closing Thought

"In God's kingdom, submission is not weakness. We don't win by overpowering, but we win by overcoming."

When we submit to God's will and way, we position ourselves to share in Christ's ultimate triumph. Every act of submission is an act of faith that God will vindicate, bless, and raise us up in His perfect timing.

Notes & Personal Reflections

[Space for group members to write personal insights and commitments]

