

Follow Spiritual Leadership

Pacific Heart Attitudes - part 5

March 30, 2025

Western culture is cynical of institutions and leaders. The response of people in culture is to turn to individualism. The mantra is “Don’t follow anyone. Be your own man! Follow your heart! It doesn’t matter what any institution or leader says. They’re all flawed anyway.”

DAY 1: God gives authority for your benefit. It’s His design.

1. The principle of authority is God-given and is seen in many ways:

- a. Family - Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4
- b. Church - Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-6
- c. Work - 1 Peter 2:18
- d. Government - 1 Peter 2:13; Romans 13:1-7;

2. This doesn’t mean that every leader in these arenas of life is good or godly. It just means there is a structure to life that God uses. Authority is meant to do two things for us:

- To provide for us (an order that enables blessing and freedom within ethical limits).
- To protect us (from those who would do us harm).

3. Let’s look at what God says about the design of government.

Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [2] Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. [3] For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. [4] For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. [5] Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

4. What strikes you about the design of authority in government?

5. Did you see the warning in verse 2, above? What strikes you about this principle?

6. God uses authorities in our lives redemptively.

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY Submit To authority

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

1. To whom are we to submit?

2. What reasons are we given to submit to authority?

3. Have you seen any instances of someone who did **not submit** to authority, whether it be to our laws, police, the government, the boss or owner at work, or in a community organization? What did you observe?

1 Peter 2:18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

¹⁹ For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.

4. In western civilization, historical slavery has been virtually eradicated. But the principles seen in these verses have application in the workplace.

5. What attitudes does Peter pinpoint that are necessary to submitting to authority?

6. We are to submit to authority, but within scriptural limits.

The early apostles were told to keep quiet about sharing the gospel with the people Notice their response.

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than man!"

7. There are instances where not following authority is called for. That said, there is a great preponderance of times where people rebelled against authority and it caused them great harm.

8. What strikes you about today's devotional?

DAY 3: In the church

Hebrews 13:17 **Obey** your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. **Obey** them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

1. Hebrews tells us to “obey” your church leaders. (As we have noted, this is within scriptural limits).

a. The first word “obey” in the Greek is a compound word, which means “to listen, to attend, and to submit.”

b. The second word “obey” (peitho) means to persuade or win over.

→The idea is to be “persuadable.” Let them persuade you. We are to know our heart naturally leans toward our own pride and believing we know better. Instead, let those with more life experience, more leadership and wisdom guide you.

3. The word “submit” is a root word and a suffix. It means to arrange yourself under.

(To arrange under” “hupeiko” and “eiko” meaning to yield. To retire, withdraw, submit

4. One way to think of this Greek word is to leave the final decision to another, trusting God will work to bring about His best in my life.

5. Sometimes the lack of submission to authority is most clearly seen in someone’s attitude. In the following exercise jot down an example of doing the same thing but with different attitudes:

Spirit of cooperation vs. Spirit of independence.

Asking questions of leaders:

Giving input:

Giving “feedback”

6. A lack of submission can also be seen and felt in these examples:

- Are you making the leader’s job easier or harder?
- Are you making the team’s job easier or harder?

7. Perhaps the most important item which exposes our true attitudes is the command: “Make it a joy” for the leader! Is that the effect you have on your pastor? Spiritual leaders? At work or in your home?

What strikes you from today’s devotional?

How to follow leadership

DAY 4: Attitudes that create community

Be respectful.

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

1. “Respect” means to fix the value or the price. Respect shows the worth of an individual.
2. “Proper” respect. Respect a person for his character, ability, accomplishment, or his/her position. Respecting a person *early* in a relationship is mostly easy. But as time passes, it becomes more difficult because you learn of the leader’s weaknesses.
3. Whether or not the person seems “worthy” of respect, we are to at least honor the person’s position of authority.
4. How do you respect someone...
 - Through your relationship?
 - By your words behind his back? All have weaknesses and strengths. Talk about strengths.
 - To the leader’s plan (unless morally obligated to refrain)? The *responsibility is for **you** to adapt.*
 - When your opinion differs? Give your opinion but you must leave the final decision to leaders.

Be united. You are on a team.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

5. It’s so easy to assume your ideas are the best ones. But that is not how teams work together. If you are a person that regularly pushes your ideas as if they are the best, you will burn your team leader and eventually the team.
6. Being a part of a team requires respect for the opinions and ideas of others. It also requires deference, deferring to other’s ideas about how to do things.
7. Relinquish the right to the final decision.
8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 5: Attitudes that promote community

Give input without demand.

1. Give ideas as suggestions, something to mull over. Don't push leaders to make decisions on the spot. It takes wisdom to know what kind of input a boss wants and how much input a boss wants. If you find yourself regularly "pushing" your leaders with your ideas you should stop and do some serious study and soul-searching. (below)
2. Under the following verses, jot down the principles and attitudes we should remember that would help us follow spiritual leadership:

1 Peter 5:5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." [6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

3. Reaffirm your loyalty as you give input. "I'm on your team. Whatever you think..."

4. Be hopeful. Think win-win.

*Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no **advantage to you.***

5. Be a blessing.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?