

# Spirit-filled Submission

Ephesians 5:21

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## **Introduction:**

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at the Spirit-filled life.

- In Ephesians 5:18, we find the little command “Be filled with the Spirit.”
  - It is added on to the prohibition “Be not drunk with wine...”
  - Yet, this little command becomes the focus of the apostle for the next 24 verses.
- I spoke to you already about what it is to be filled with the Spirit...
  - You will remember that I told you that you can be more or less filled with the Spirit as you go along...
    - Though He is present in every believer, there are times when you are not walking in the Spirit, when you are not filled with Him...
    - That’s why verse 18 commands you to be filled with Him.
  - I also told you that the filling of the Spirit is in particular a blessing of the New Covenant.
    - The Lord promised that after Christ came and was glorified,
      - the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh...
      - It would no longer be only the prophets or kings that would be filled with Him, but all who believe, from the least to the greatest.
    - Though believers in the Old Testament had the Spirit of God, by comparison with believers in the New Testament, they were not filled with Him.
      - John even says, “The Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.”
      - He does not mean that there was no Holy Spirit for the Old Testament believer, but He means that the promised outpouring had not yet happened.
      - The pouring out of the Spirit upon all flesh—from the least to the greatest—was something that Jesus did after He was resurrected and had ascended to sit at God’s right hand.
        - This is the blessing of the New Covenant.
  - And what does the Spirit do when He is poured out on us?
    - The Spirit makes Christ known to us...

- Christ who has now been crucified for us...
- Christ whose sacrifice for our sins has now been accepted...
- Christ whose beauty we see and into whose likeness we are being transformed.
  - Oh yes, my friends, all things are new in Him!
    - We are a new creation in Jesus Christ!
    - Old things are passing away, all things are becoming new...
- You can see why the Holy Spirit could not be poured out until Christ had finished His work...
  - It was only then that the Spirit could so much more fully reveal Him to us.

But you need to understand that you can be filled with the Spirit in varying degrees...

- The early church was instructed, in selecting deacons, to choose men who were filled with the Holy Spirit...
  - We are told that everyone who believed *had* the Holy Spirit, but there were some who were *filled* with Him in comparison with others who were not...
    - They were the ones who were characterised by the new life that the Holy Spirit gives us...
      - They were living in joyful communion with Jesus Christ,
        - showing their love for Him by keeping His commandments in a way that distinguished them from others.
- And because one person can be filled with the Spirit more than another,
  - and because you yourself can be more filled with the Spirit at one time than you are at another...
  - Paul issues this command in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Spirit...
    - We have seen that he gives us three characteristics of those who are filled with the Spirit...
      - **In verse 19**, he tells us that when you are filled with the Spirit, you will sing the songs God has given us in His word with your heart in accompaniment...
        - Anyone can make the sounds with his lips, but only those who are filled with the Spirit will sing from the heart...
      - **In verse 20**, Paul tells you that those who are filled with the Spirit will be characterised by gratitude... always in everything...
        - And that your gratitude will be directed to God in the name of Christ.

- Gratitude for what Jesus has done will be at the foundation of your life so that whining and half-hearted service will be no more...
- This gratitude is something that wells up in you when you are filled with the Spirit, there will be discontent and dissatisfaction.
- **And now this week, we come to verse 21...**
- This is the third characteristic of those who are filled with the Spirit...
- Namely, the you submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.
  - This that we might call “Spirit-filled submission” is what we are going to look at today.

First of all,

### **I. What does it mean to submit to one another?**

A. It means to “line up under each other.”

1. In the original, the word is *upotassw hoop-ot-as'-so*.
  - a. *upotassw* is a compound word...
    - *upo* means *under*
    - *tassw* means *to put in order, to station, to arrange, to assign a place*.
  - b. When you put these two words together you get the meaning:
    - *to arrange under,*
    - *to subordinate,*
    - *to put in subjection,*
    - *to yield or obey.*
    - And so, to submit to **one another** means
      - *to line up under each other.*
2. The idea here is that those who are filled with God’s Spirit will each take the place God has given to him in relation to the others...
  - a. Those whom God has appointed to lead will take up their responsibility without abdication...
    - They will exercise their God-given authority...
  - b. And those whom God has placed under them will cheerfully submit to and obey those who are over them in the Lord.

B. Paul makes it very clear that this what he is talking about in the context...

1. If you look at the verses that follow, you will see that he speaks about three submission relationships—
  - that is, relationships that involve submission...
  - a. In verse 22-33, he speaks about marriage...
  - b. In chapter 6, verse 1, he speaks about parenting...
  - c. And in 6:5, he speaks about the servant-master relationship.
  
2. And you will also notice that in each of these relationships,
  - He begins by addressing the one who is to submit,
    - But then goes on to address the one who is to lead...
  
  - In marriage, he calls the wives to submit their husbands,
    - and then he calls the husbands to love their wives and give themselves for them as Christ did for the church...
  
  - In parenting, he first calls the children to take their place under their parents...
    - Then he calls fathers to godly fathering...
  
  - And in labour relationships,
    - he first tells servants to obey their masters from the heart...
    - Then he calls the masters to avoid harsh treatment and to remember that they will be judged by their master in heaven.

TRANS> You see that the whole idea here is that each one take his God-given place of service...

- That we would all line up under each other according to God's call,
  - each one living in relationship to his neighbour in the way that God has appointed.

C. This is a hard concept for us today...

1. I suppose it has always been hard for God's people... ever since the fall at least...
  - a. After all, the fall came about because Satan was successful in persuading Adam and Eve that submission to authority will make us miserable and unhappy—
    - that it was demeaning to us to have God telling us what to do...
    - that we should be like God, knowing good and evil.
  
  - In essence he said,

- “Don’t leave it up to God to decide what is good for you and what is bad for you...
  - Decide that for yourself...
  - Why should someone else tell you what is good for you?”
- b. And ever since then, we have had a bad taste in our mouth when we hear the word “submission.”
- We think that we will lose our life if we submit to God when in fact that is the way will find it...
  - We were not made to live independently of Him, but under His benevolent command and call...
    - which when obeyed, fills our life to the fullest and deeply satisfies us.
    - We are here for Him and our life is found, not lost, in serving Him.
- c. And after we rebelled,
- The Lord told us that our rebellion would cause great disturbance within our domestic relations...
- 1) He told Eve that she would have great difficulty in bearing children... that there would be much sorrow for her in this...
    - Certainly, this has to do with the physical pain of the birth process itself...
      - But it also has to do with the sorrow that comes from having rebellious sons and daughters...
      - Eve soon knew this quite well when he son Cain arose to slay her son Abel.
        - And so it has been.
  - 2) The Lord also told Eve that rebellion would plague her marriage...
    - That the desire of woman would be to dominate their husbands, but that their husbands would rule over them...
    - In other words, that there would be a struggle between them...
      - She, chaffing under his authority...restless and insecure in his love,
      - and he, discontent with her, negligent, and irresponsible in his leadership.

TRANS> The idea is that from then on, each member of the fallen race would have difficulty taking his God-given place in his relationship with others.

- I hardly need to tell you,
  - this is a difficulty we have to this day...
- 2. And this difficulty of lining up under each other has had many expressions over the centuries...
  - a. There are times when the rebellion is characterised especially by the tyrannical exercise of authority...
    - by leaders who are harsh and demanding...
    - We are all too familiar with the Manassehs and the Neros and the Stalins that have been the cause of so much sorrow in the world.
      - And we know about the selfish fathers who have made unreasonable demands on their wives and children—
        - requiring their daughters to marry men they did not love or requiring their wives to serve them as slaves.

TRANS> With such leaders, submission is indeed a very ugly word...

- And when that kind of submission gets unbearable, there has often been a reaction... a revolution...that is just as ugly...
- b. There has been a complete rejection of authority so that everyone does what is right in his own eyes...
  - Family ties are weakened and almost obliterated...
  - Good government gives way to anarchy and chaos so that it is hardly safe to be on the streets...
  - Honour is a lost concept, but freedom is the order of the day.
  - Guidance and tradition is replaced with an obsessive desire for innovation and change—just for the sake of change.

TRANS> And after this has gone on for so long, people start to cry out, once again, for order and discipline—

- Like Israel, after the period of the judges,
  - They cry out for a king...
  - They will even submit to a heartless dictator because the desire is so strong to escape the chaos...
    - And so back and forth it goes over the centuries...

3. In the 1960's when our society had become sick of schoolmarm type of authority...
  - a. There was a real reaction against the Bible's teaching on submission...
    - 1) Everyone was tired of the kind of selfish authority that had been around for so long...
      - This sentiment was so strong that many in the church became embarrassed about the Bible's teaching on submission...
      - There was reason to be embarrassed about the way authority was exercised,
        - but there was nothing wrong with what the scripture taught.
    - 2) But as there was a desire to get around what the scripture was saying here,
      - someone came up with a novel interpretation of Ephesians 5:21...
        - namely, that when it says "submitting to one another,"
        - it calls everyone to submit to everyone...
      - In other words,
        - Husbands were to submit to wives just as much as wives to husbands...
        - And parents were to submit to children just as much as children to parents...
        - and masters to servants as much as servants to masters.
    - 3) This novel interpretation of verse 21 was used to trump everything that Paul says in the next 24 verses about submission relationship...
      - Where one category of persons is supposed to submit to another...
      - This faulty interpretation was used to overthrow the very structure that our Lord established for society.
  - b. This became such a popular view that parents stopped disciplining their children and starting having their children address them by their first names...
    - and corporeal punishment was removed from the schools and from the courts...
    - Discipline and authoritative preaching was removed from the churches...
    - And wives were looked at as having equal authority in the home...
    - And wide eyed Sunday school teachers started teaching classes about all this in the church.

- c. My brothers and sisters, we need to return to what the Lord says about our relationships...
- 1) When He calls you to submit to one another,
    - He is not saying that nobody is supposed to have authority over anyone else...
    - He is saying that we are each to take our places—that we are to line up in the order that he has appointed for us.
  - 2) The person who is still steeped in the anti-authoritarian sentiments of the 1960's needs to see that all authority is not necessarily bad...
    - Selfish, abusive authority is bad, but authority exercised in a godly way is good and leads to happiness and godliness.
    - The scriptures are full of directives to submit to authority and to exercise authority...
  - 3) But at the same time, care must be exercised that we are not reactionary.
    - The goal is not to react against anti-authoritarianism by finding a dictator—
      - that is the direction our society seems to be heading more and more today...
      - nor is it simply to be **balanced** between anarchy and dictatorship...
        - I always hate it when Christians act like the Bible is all about balance...
        - I mean it is true that there is a beautiful symmetry and balance in God's plan...
          - but it is not that being godly involves having freedom at 50% and order at 50%--
            - 50% anarchy and 50% dictatorship...

TRANS> The solution is to submit to one another **“in the fear of the Lord.”**

- This brings me to my second point this morning...
- Having seen that we are to line up under each other,
  - I now want to look at...

## II. What it means to do this in the fear of the Lord.

- Oh yes, and just to clarify something...
  - you may have noticed that the New King James says “in the fear of God.”

- Well this is one of those places where there is a very slight variation in the manuscripts...
  - The New King James follows the Texus Receptus here...
    - But in this case, the majority of the manuscripts say “in the fear of the Lord,” referring to Christ.
    - It really doesn’t have any great affect on the meaning because Christ is God,
      - but in case any one was wondering why I keep saying “the fear of the Lord” instead of “the fear of God,” that is the reason.

TRANS> Okay then, so what does it mean to submit in the fear of the Lord?

A. In short, to do something in the fear of the Lord means to do it with reference to Him.

1. It means that you do what you do before the face of God— mindful of Him...
  - factoring God into the equation...
  - acting as if He is present and knows what you are doing...
  - living to please Him...
  - You take Him into account.

TRANS> Another way to say it is that

2. You fear the Lord when you recognise that He is the one who alone is able to either bless you or curse you...
  - He is the one who determines whether you are blessed or cursed, happy or unhappy...
    - a. Think about the things that have some power to bless you or curse you...
      - 1) Suppose you are walking down the street at night,
        - and you realise a gang has just surrounded you...
        - You would be afraid of them, would you not?
          - Why?
            - Because it would seem right then that they had the power to do harm to you... to curse you...
      - 2) Or suppose you are struggling to pay your bills and you find out the company you work for is going to start laying people off...
        - You would fear losing your job...would you not?
          - To lose your job would be to lose a blessing...

- 3) Or suppose you find out that the food you are about to eat has been contaminated with Salmonella...
  - you would be afraid to eat it... would you not?
  - The fear of that food and the power it has to curse you would cause you to avoid it.

TRANS> And consider further...

- b. The more power you believe someone or something has to bless you or to curse you, the more you fear that person or that thing.
  - 1) You don't fear that which has very little power to bless you or curse you...
    - For example, if that gang I mentioned before consists of three scrawny looking chaps and you are a black belt,
      - you will not have a great fear of them, will you?
    - Or if the news about the layoff comes when you just received an offer for a better paying job,
      - you will not fear the lay-off—at least not for yourself...
        - you will even welcome it!

TRANS> You have little fear of that which is unable to make any difference in your life...

- 2) Furthermore, when something you fear less is in competition with something you fear more,
  - you will have fear for one more than other.
  - For example,
    - If you have two tests to take,
      - and one of these will determine whether you graduate and the other will determine whether you make an A or a B in one of your electives,
        - which test are you going to have a greater fear of?
        - Which one will have the greatest influence on how you spend your time?

TRANS> Well, you can see the point...

3. If you fear the Lord, you give Him His place in your life and conduct...

- Everything you do revolves around Him...
  - You fear Him.
  - You recognise that He is the one who ultimately has the power to bless and to curse...
  
- a. My brothers and sisters,
  - You realise that He has called you to blessing in Jesus Christ...
    - That He is going to bring all those who are in Christ to glory...
    - That He is bringing us into a deeper and fuller communion with Himself...
    - That He is shaping our lives after His own image!
  
- b. And so, as Paul explains it in Corinthians,
  - You make it your aim to please the Lord in all things...
    - He is the one who makes the difference!
  - You realise that if God blesses you, it really doesn't matter what else happens to you...
    - He is the only one to fear because no one else can determine the final outcome.
      - Balak can call Balaam to curse you, and he can try again and again, but if God has purposed to bless you, the curse will fail...
      - There is no one else to be concerned about pleasing but God.

TRANS> This is where the filling of the Spirit comes in...

- B. When you are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit causes you to fear the Lord!
- to walk in the fear of the Lord...
  - He shows you how significant Christ is...
1. Instead of being relegated to second place in your life, Christ becomes everything to you!
- We have seen this all along as we have talked about being filled with the Spirit,
    - but we have not spoken of it as "fearing the Lord."
  - But that is exactly what the fear of the Lord is...

- You fear Him when you see Him in His proper place give Him His proper place so that you live entirely with reference to Him...
2. The Holy Spirit is the one who causes you to fear Christ because the Spirit is the One who reveals Christ to you...
    - a. He shows you the great love of Christ in coming to save you and to bear the curse for you—
      - He enables you to see how great God’s forgiveness is and how great a deliverance He has accomplished for you...
    - b. And He gives you a delight in God’s law—
      - You see Christ who always obeyed the Father and you see how beautiful His life is and you see how beautiful it would be to obey as He obeyed...
        - to love as He loved and to be holy as He was holy...
        - so that you say,
          - “Oh, if only I could be like that!”
    - c. And the Spirit works in you so that as you behold the glory of Christ revealed in the gospel,
      - you are transformed to become more and more like Him...
      - you are renewed in the image of God because Christ has His proper place in your life.

### **III. But how does this fear of the Lord affect your submission to one another?**

- In short, it makes the Lord prominent in all of your relationships...
    - When you are filled the Spirit, Christ becomes central in all your relationships...
    - He has the primary influence upon how you conduct yourself in all of those relationships...
      - Whether you are called to a place of leadership or a place of submission...
      - You line up under each other in the fear of the Lord.
        - Let’s look at four ways He is central in submission relationships...
- A. First, you line up under each other with the authority of Christ as central.
    1. You realise that all authority is instituted by Him...
      - and that those who are in authority are placed in their positions by Him.
    - a. They are His representatives and ministers,

- whether they represent Him well or whether they represent Him poorly.
  - They are still His ministers who are put there by Him...
- b. We know this because the scripture declares that it is so...
- For example, in Romans 13, Paul says to submit to the civil magistrate as those whom God has placed over them as His own ministers...
    - He wrote this to Christians at Rome who were under the Roman emperors—
      - vile men who received worship as gods, who were murderers and liars and perverts—
      - men who were given over to idolatry.
- c. But listen to what Paul says in Romans 13:1-5...
- Romans 13:1-5: “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.”

2. What are the implications of this?

- a. First, it means that all authority has its foundation in the Lord...
- Authority is neither self derived, nor is it conferred by the people.
  - The only reason that wives are to obey husbands and that children are to obey parents and that citizens are to obey the civil magistrate and that Christians are to obey the elders in the church is because the Lord has instituted it.

TRANS> The second implication grows out of the first...

- b. If authority has its foundation in the Lord, then submission to authority is not optional.
- If the wicked Roman Emperors were said to have been put there by God and were to be obeyed,
    - So are the rulers in our land, so is your husband or your parents, so are the elders in the church.
    - Those who fear God will submit to those God has placed over them, even if they are unjust and ungodly men.

TRANS> A third implication arising from the fact that all authority is God-given is that...

- c. those who lead are never authorised to command outside the sphere of the authority that God has given them...
  - For example, the magistrate does not have authority from God to tell you to bow down to images...
    - You should be willing to be cast into a fiery furnace rather than to obey the king in such matters—
      - but you are still to obey him in those areas that do belong to Him.
  - They do not have authority to tell us who we must accept as members of the church.
  - They do not have authority to tell us not to use the rod to chasten our children when the Lord has appointed it.
  - This principle is brought out in Acts 4 when Peter is asked not to preach in the name of Christ,
    - and he replied,
      - “Judge for yourself, ought we to obey God or man?”
  - Likewise, the church has no authority to tell you who to marry.
    - They can forbid you to marry an unbeliever, but they cannot tell you that you must marry Bill or Jane...
    - Nor can they ask you to worship God in a way that is not commanded in His word.
      - such as to perform rituals that He has not appointed or to keep holy days that He has not commanded...
      - If they do, it is your duty to refuse to participate.
  - And children, if your parents ask you to lie, you should rather take punishment from them than sin against the Lord...
    - or if they ask you to engage in worship that is contrary to God’s will or to join an apostate church.
  - Furthermore, if those in authority over you violate God’s standard,
    - it is sometimes appropriate and sometimes even your duty to report them to those who are in authority over them...
    - For example, a wife with a negligent husband who is a member of the church can call the elders and ask them to speak to her husband...

- or a wife with a husband that abuses her can call the police...
  - or a church with a pastor who begins to teach false doctrine can and should report it to the Presbytery.
- d. A fourth implication that arises from the fact that all authority is from God is that you should be careful about the authorities you choose...
- There are many that you cannot choose,
    - for example, your parents are given to you without your say...
    - But this is not so with a husband or with a church...
      - It is your duty, when you have the option, to put yourself under the authority of those who represent the Lord well rather than those who do not...
      - To deliberately put yourself under rebellious authorities bespeaks of a heart in rebellion against the Lord.

TRANS> Those who fear the Lord will recognise the Lord's authority in all their relationships involving submission...

B. Second, when you fear the Lord, you line up under each other with the **honour** of Christ as central.

1. The Bible frequently tells us that the way we treat our brother is the way we treat the Lord...
  - John says, "If you do not love your brother whom you have seen, how can you love God whom you have not seen?"
    - There is a certain form of piety that claims to only obey the Lord,
      - but that rejects those He has appointed to rule...
      - We might call it an ethereal piety or an invisible piety.
  - The rule of Jesus Christ is that the way you treat your brothers is the way you treat him...
    - He complained at Paul for persecuting Him when Paul persecuted His people...
    - And He complained at King Saul for disobeying Him when He disobeyed His prophet Samuel.
2. The principle here is that you can show honour to the Lord whom you love by honouring those He has placed over you...
  - a. The truth is, you show everyone what you think of the Lord by the way you treat those whom He has placed over you...

- You can talk about honouring Him all you want,
    - but honour is seen when it is given to those who represent Him in your life every day...
  - The way you treat your husband, or the way you treat your parents is the way you treat Christ...
- b. Likewise, if you are in authority, you show what you either bring honour to the Lord by shepherding those under your care just as He calls you to...
- or you bring reproach on His name by negligence or tyranny...
3. This is a wonderful opportunity for you if you are filled with the Spirit!
- It means that you have very concrete, tangible ways to honour Christ every day—
    - to show everyone what you think of your Lord by the way you treat those who are over you and the way you treat those who are under you.
    - Those who are filled with the Spirit so that they know Christ want to honour Him and they will honour Him in this way...

TRANS> And this brings us to third thing...

- C. Third, when you fear the Lord, you line up under each other with the judgement of Christ as central.
1. As you bring honour or dishonour upon the Lord by the way you treat those in authority and those under your care,
    - you can be sure that the Lord takes notice of this...
      - and that He will judge you accordingly...
      - for He will render to everyone according to their deeds.
  2. Now of course there are many warnings in scripture that God will judge those rebel against those he has placed over them in authority...
    - For example, Proverbs 30:17 says:
      - Pr 30:17 The eye *that* mocks *his* father, And scorns obedience to *his* mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.
      - Such a person will die a cursed death.
  3. Our Lord gives very severe warnings to those in authority as well..
    - a. In Matthew 18, Jesus gave a very severe warning to parents...
      - He was talking about how little children are very teachable and are an example of teachability—

- But having said this, He warned against causing these little ones to stumble...
  - It is so easy to lead a child astray, and if you do, He will hold you accountable for it!
    - He says that it would be better for a millstone to be hung around your neck and for you to be cast into the sea than to cause them to stumble.
    - God Himself has established the connection between those who are in authority and Himself,
      - and it is often the case that those who are under wicked authority will wrongly develop a view of God that is like that of the one in authority.
      - That is why you have such a huge responsibility.
  - b. And the Lord gives a severe warning to the civil magistrate in Psalm 82...
    - In that Psalm, He addresses the judges for not protecting the weak and assures them that even though He has made them to be as gods,
      - they will all die like men and fall.
    - While you see his severity in these warnings,
      - you also see how much He cares for His people...
4. And this leads to a real encouragement—
- a. As our Lord is so zealous that his little ones be protected and cared for,
    - you can be certain that He will richly reward those who faithfully served.
  - b. Most of us are ashamed of our service, for we know how short we come...
    - but I have good news for you...
      - The Lord's judgement is very generous toward us through Christ...
      - If we are in Him, He takes into account every cup of cold water, every word of encouragement, every act of discipline...
        - and He graciously rewards you His servants...
        - He presents His people as being surprised at all the rewards he will give them at the end.

TRANS> Now this leads us to the fourth way that the fear of the Lord will affect your relationships.

D. Fourth, when you fear the Lord, you line up under each other with the **love** of Christ as central.

1. My brothers and sisters, if God has given you children or other person under your care,
  - a. You can be very confident that He will give you the grace you need to lead them if you will look to Him!
    - He is zealous for them, and he commands you to lead them well...
    - He is at work in you to make you the kind of leader you ought to be because of His great love for you and for those you lead...
      - He wants you to represent Him well!
      - He delights in the fruit you bring forth.
      - He is using you to care for His own!
  - b. As a pastor, I sometimes see terror in the eyes of men when I speak to them about the responsibility they have been given to represent the Lord in their marriage or as fathers...
    - There are men who will draw back and not take up their responsibility...
      - They are afraid, and they will abdicate...
    - But it does not need to be so.
      - If you are filled with the Spirit, you see Christ for who He is!
      - You see His love and His grace in the cross...
        - And it makes you sure that He is going to bless His people—
        - and that He bless you if you, as a father or an elder or a ruler, want to bless them...
    - It is His promise to bless those who bless His people!
      - How can you doubt it?
      - You cannot doubt it if you are filled with the Spirit because when you are filled with the Spirit you see the love of Christ...
        - You grasp what he has done and you are able to rest securely in Him.
2. And if you are under authority, you will have the very same confidence if you are filled with the Spirit...
  - a. You will know that God has raised up whatever authorities He has placed over you for your good...
    - Even if they persecute you for following Christ and are not obedient leaders at all...
      - If you are filled with the Spirit, you will rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer for your Lord...

- You will see those abusive authorities as His gift to you...
- b. And if you have obedient authorities as one who is filled with the Spirit,
  - you will rejoice all the more in the Lord's goodness to you...
  - You will give thanks for them and you will see His love to you in giving them to you and you will joyfully submit to them.

**Conclusion:**

And so my brothers and sisters,

- I ask you,
  - Are you filled with the Spirit so that you submit to one another in the fear of the Lord?
  - Do you take your place with respect to those He has placed around you...
    - to care for those He has put under you...
    - and to submit to those He has placed over you?
  - Do you take you place because you clearly see Christ—
    - Does His authority, His honour, His judgement, and His love affect the way you treat those under you and those in authority over you?
    - Is Christ real to you in these relationships?
      - If He is not then you need to seek Him.
      - You need to be filled with the Spirit.