



## IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

KEY SCRIPTURE | Mark 10:35–45

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Many people think “submission” is a dirty word—an outdated concept that requires women to do whatever the men in authority demand, no questions asked. And when you look at the passage most people use to support this position, it's not hard to see where the idea comes from. Ephesians 5:24 says, “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

But that's not all the Bible has to say about submission. Though most versions insert section and chapter breaks in this section that distract from the rest of the discussion, Paul is teaching the church how they should interact with each other. He's not just talking about wives submitting to their husbands—he's talking about submission in every type of relationship. Ephesians 5:21 says, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

We see this principle in this week's passage, too. The disciples are bickering about who's going to get the place of honor in heaven, and Jesus cuts to the heart of the issue: “. . . Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “submission”?
2. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
3. Share about a time you struggled to submit to someone. Why was it difficult?
4. Read Ephesians 5:21–6:9. Why do you think God asks us to practice submission?
5. Who can you submit to out of “reverence for Christ” this week? How could it change your relationships?

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, sincerely ask someone what you can do for them. Remember to do it out of “reverence for Christ” rather than because of who the person is.

