

Series: Stand Firm
Title: Part 3: Submission
Date: October 14/15, 2017
Speaker: Steve Garcia

Big Idea: “Submission” is an unpopular word in our culture that values self-empowerment. But what if the most empowered and empowering thing we can do is to willingly embrace a posture of service toward others? Steve Garcia taught that following Jesus’ model of submission is actually one of the most powerful ways for us to shine a light into a dark world.

Passage: 1 Peter 2:13-3:7

Discuss It:

1. What is your general attitude toward people in authority over you (bosses, parents, police, etc.)?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word “submission?”
3. **Read 1 Peter 2:13-16.** In the passage Steve taught through this weekend, the apostle Peter discusses three arenas where Christians should practice submission - beginning with our relationship to those in positions of governmental authority. As Steve mentioned, this passage is striking given that the emperor at the time was Nero, a notorious persecutor of Christians. What are some healthy ways that Christians can take a posture of service toward government, even if we find certain features of government hostile to our faith?
4. **Read 1 Peter 2:18-20.** Peter is not condoning the practice of slavery in this passage. Rather, he’s trying to inspire believers to respond in grace-filled ways that contrast the treatment they receive from unbelievers. As Steve mentioned in his message, Christians can apply this principle in the workplace by embracing a great work ethic and a great attitude. Have you ever changed a boss’s opinion of you by doing excellent work or displaying a positive attitude?
5. **Read 1 Peter 3:1-2 and 3:7.** If you grew up in church, what did your church teach about submission in marriage? As Steve mentioned in his message this weekend, the Bible teaches *mutual submission* (see also Ephesians 5:21), meaning that both husbands and wives should always be putting the other person’s interest ahead of their own. If you are married, share the most meaningful thing your spouse has done to serve you.
6. Steve concluded his message challenging each of us to ask the question: “Who can I serve?” What opportunities will you have this week to serve someone in a way that might cause them to see the love of Christ in you?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?