



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The Discipline of Submission (Mark 9:35)

MARCH 9, 2016

Dave DePue / PO Box 1775, Topeka, KS 66603 / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

*Jesus' most radical teaching on human relationships was His complete reversal of the cultural notion of greatness.<sup>1</sup> “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last and the servant of all” (Mark 9:35). Have you ever watched that reversal being worked out in practice?*

### INTRODUCTION

The Spiritual Discipline of Submission is seen in humility. This frees us from bondage to self, the burden of needing to get our own way. Submission fortifies us in the horizontal relationships addressed in the last six of the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:16-21). In submission we are free to value others. We are liberated when we give up our rights. We can love people unconditionally. **Why is valuing others being taught in business leadership seminars?**

### GOD'S MODEL FOR US

*Matthew 11:29 “Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”.*

Please remember that Spiritual Disciplines are merely the means; liberation from bondage is the goal. Outward passion for humility can be a form of bondage itself! We do not make an outward show in self-glorification, nor do we slip into a spirit of self-hatred. Developing discipline in self-denial is the liberating force. We can love ourselves and are free to demonstrate a love for others. Jesus taught: *“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it”* (Matthew 10:39). **Can you identify tangible results from practicing self-denial?**

### BREAKING FREE FROM THE CULTURE<sup>2</sup>

1. The first revolutionary Act is to submit to the Triune God. Daily invest in the vertical communication needed for a personal relationship. This addresses the first four of the Ten Commandments: (1) Worship the Living God rather than dead religion, even ambition or career. (2) Do not make idols of things, (3) Do not use God's Name as a cuss word, (4) Give Sundays to God; fellowship at a local church. **Which of these acts needs more of your attention?**

2. The second submission is to God's written Word. We yield to hear the Word, to receive the Word and to obey the Word. God's Spirit inspired the written Word, and will empower you to interpret and apply it to your need (Hebrews 4:12). **Will you commit to investing in this source of wisdom and insight?**

3. The third submission is to your family, even your extended family. Listen, be considerate, and share. Treat these relationships as eternal (Luke 16:25-28)! **What more could you be doing to improve relationships with one or more family members?**

4. This submission is to our neighbors and those precious souls whom we encounter as we serve during our brief time on this earth (Philippians 2:4). Perhaps they will see the Jesus in you or think that they have encountered an angel! **Has anyone thanked God for you?**

5. This submission is to the community of believers, those in God's greater church (Romans 13:4-6). Christ and His Disciples gave all for the church. **Which of your talents are you sharing to strengthen the Church?**

6. This submission is to the broken and despised: The widows, orphans, the helpless, and the underserved among us or in the world community. Your blessing to them brings God's favor on you (Psalm 112:9). **How have you returned some of God's blessings on you?**

7. This act of submission is to the greater world around us. There may be many generations following you in your community, in Kansas, in America, and the world (Ephesians 2:12) **What are you doing that will provide hope and improve the opportunities for others?**

### A PRAYER

Father God: Please keep me humble in Your sight. Help me to treat others as Your children and as my brothers and sisters. Strengthen me for Your service, and bless all that I set my hands to do (Deuteronomy 12:7). I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline. (Harper) 1998. p115.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. pgs 122-123.