Submission

Ephesians 5:21 And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Let’s look at the horse as an example in submission.

One of the most important exercises a person can do with their horse is for softness and responsiveness. In order for the horse to be responsive to its rider’s command it must submit. This submission is developed through a mutual understanding and respect. It is not a give and take situation, but one of give and release (or give and give back).

That interaction with the horse is not unlike interactions we have with people in our lives. Whether in a marriage, with our children, other members of our family or at work, we must submit to one another our of respect and mutual understanding.

Have you ever been in a relationship where you gave and gave, and all the other person did was take and take? Over time, someone in the relationship will get tired of the arrangement and refuse to respond.

As the horse submits to its rider, the relationship continues to grow. When the relationship gets to that level, it becomes easier (and even priority) for the horse to follow its master and take direction in every aspect of its life. That is submission, and is the type of relationship we should seek to have with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we submit to the Lord, it becomes priority for us to follow his lead. Just as give and give back relationships in other areas of our life grow stronger, so does our relationship with the Lord. The more we give, the more the Lord gives back. He gives back with love beyond our understanding.

John 3: 16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

I recently had the opportunity to work with a trainer who constantly took horses back to the basics when they got off track and lost focus. I was constantly reminded of my walk and how when I fight a situation, when I lose focus on the truth and wonder off in some direction with little or no purpose, it is only when I fully submit to the Lord and follow His lead that life is truly “better” for me. It is at that moment my understanding of the purpose of that situation comes clear and my role then can be established. I know through examples such as Paul and John the Baptist, that following Jesus does not mean that I will live a life without pain. But, with the Lord, life’s struggles are much more manageable for me.

1 Corinthians 8:6 Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

What areas of your life have you not submitted to the Lord?

Are you willing to give those areas over to the Lord right now?