



"I am Second"
(1 Peter 2:13-3:7)
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Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors... For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

"I am Second" (www.iamsecond.com) is a movement meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. Actors, athletes, musicians, business leaders, drug addicts and your next-door neighbor type of people share their stories and provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday living. People like Tony Dungy, Albert Pujols, Laccrae and Jeff Fisher tell their story there.

These are stories that give hope to the lonely and the hurting, help from destructive lifestyles, and inspiration to the unfulfilled. You'll discover people who've tried and failed. "I am Second" is designed to help people discover their purpose in life. Have you discovered yours?

The thesis is this: we find hope, peace, and fulfillment by being second.

Submission is not a popular topic today in this world of self-fulfillment. The word *submit* is surely one of the most difficult, disliked, and divisive words in the Bible. Whatever the word *submit* means, it's something the Bible teaches every Christian can and should do.

I want to offer five secrets of what submission means.

Secret 1: Submission is personal.

Submission is a principle you apply to yourself. Notice the Bible never says we should ever try to force others to submit to us. Instead, he speaks to each person and asks each to work on his or her own attitude.

Secret 2: Submission is spiritual.

Submission and sin are antithetical. Sin is when we do not submit to God's ways. When we are born again by faith in Christ, it is a submission to God and to the authority of His Word, and to Christ as His means of salvation.

Submission is also at the heart of discipleship. Jesus called men not only to believe in Him but to follow Him. A disciple is a learner and a follower who has submitted himself to his teacher. Submission is a part of the daily life of a follower of Jesus.

Secret 3: Submission is not natural.

We do not like people telling us what to do. True submission is seeking the best interest of others at our own expense. Submission means I voluntarily limit what I might do naturally in

order to benefit you. We can no more force one to truly submit than we can force one to convert to faith in Christ.

We live in a world that "powers up" in relationships and God tells us we should use our power for the benefit of the other person. That's countercultural. Nobody wants to yield the right of way. Submission isn't the answer we like. But it's the only answer to the constant frustration and anger we have in our relationships.

Secret 4: Submission is limited.

One reason people see submission as so offensive is because they treat it as some absolute law that has no limitations. Submission doesn't mean you give up your brain. It doesn't mean that if the person you're submitting to wants to do something illegal, you should do it. Scripture teaches (in Romans 13) that Christians must submit to the governing authorities unless obeying that order would have meant disobeying God. Submission doesn't mean you go along when you're being asked to do something that violates Scripture, your conscience, or common sense.

Secret 5: Submission is the key to unity.

In the Godhead there is the trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In any relationship if all you ever do is fight over who is in charge or what should be done, the relationship will fail.

Let's all voluntarily submit to God in all things and look for ways to serve our fellow man by putting others ahead of ourselves.

"Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen".

