

## INTRODUCTION

Be amazed that God is one being in three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Not three gods, but one God in three persons from all eternity.

Be further amazed that the Son of God took on our human nature in addition to His divine nature, becoming not only Son of God, but Son of Man, too! He is the one person possessed of two natures---divine nature and human nature, distinct, yet perfectly united in one person.

As a man, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ always keeps His human will in subjection to the divine will, the will of God. The Bible says that He kept Himself under obedience even to the human will of His human parents, Joseph and Mary. How much more did He keep Himself in subjection to the divine will, even when it required intense prayers, with sweat like great drops of blood, as He cried out, “not my will, but Yours be done!” It always had been the will of God that, as a man, the Son of God would die on the cross for the sins of sinners, to pay the death penalty for our sins, to save us from the wrath of God to come.

We see in Jesus Christ the great example of a son under obedience to His Father, a son in subjection or submission to the will of the Father.

Today we continue to consider what the Bible tells us about how to choose pastors and deacons for Christ’s churches. The main theme is that to be chosen for office in the church, a man must be blameless. That blamelessness consists in several graces that should be observed to be well-developed in a man, and several vices that should not be observed as prominent. The next matter taught us here is that to be considered blameless, and thus qualified for office in the church, a man must rule his own house well or honestly.

In our text, this matter is not mentioned in just one word or short phrase, but comprises two full lines. That greater length compared with the other things mentioned, combined with the great practical importance of this doctrine, and the wealth of biblical material on this subject, has prompted me to plan a series of several sermons on the doctrine of a man having his children in subjection. Over the next several weeks, I plan for us to study this subject from several places in the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. At the end of this course of study, we’ll come back to these verses, to apply them to the church with a greater understanding that we have right now. For today, though, we will study these lines to be introduced to this doctrine, and to grasp the main ideas as written.

**To be considered blameless, and thus qualified to be an officer in the church, a man must rule his own household well, having his children in submission.**

TEXT

1 Timothy 3:4-5 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)

BODY

**To be considered blameless, and thus qualified to be an officer in the church, a man must rule his own household well, having his children in submission.**

- I. A Man Ruling His Own House Well Is a Very Important Matter
  - A. In order to be eligible to be a church officer, whether pastor or deacon
  - B. Not reasonable to expect a man who does not rule his own house well to be able to care for the church well
    1. no one should think that he would do well
      - a) not him
      - b) not his wife
      - c) not his closest friends
      - d) not the church

- II. A Man Ruling His Own House Well Consists in One Main Thing: Having His Children in Submission
- A. How our Bibles describe this one thing
    1. GEN having children under obedience
    2. KJV having his children in subjection
    3. NKJV having his children in submission
    4. ESV keeping his children submissive
  - B. See the common item: “under”
    1. Greek *hupotage*
    2. we have encountered this term many times in Paul’s writing, as we are commanded to “submit” or “be subject” or “be submissive”
      - a) a servant to his master
      - b) a wife to her own husband
      - c) each of us to the government officials over us
      - d) a church members to the pastors
  - C. God has ordained that parents are over their children, that children are under their parents. A man rules his house well when he makes sure that he and his children actually live that way, with the parents over the children, and the children under the parents.
  - D. A man ruling or managing his own household well consists chiefly in this one thing: having or keeping his children in subjection or submission to their parents; ensuring that his children act as is appropriate for those under authority

A man ruling over his own house well is a very important matter,  
Consisting primarily in one thing: having his children in submission

- III. Hear and Understand What It Means For Children To Be In Submission
- A. My dear wife has advised me that it takes more communication than I might think for people to understand what the Bible means by this

B. From the centurion Luke 7

1. Luke 7:7 “But say the word, and my servant will be healed.”
2. Luke 7:8
  - a) I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes
  - b) I say to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes
  - c) I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.
3. you can fill in other aspects of this; the centurion summarized in three simple points, but other points could be made
4. when the parents speaks, and the child does what the parent said, that child can rightly be thought to be in under obedience, in subjection, in submission
5. the centurion’s description rules out all such things as
  - a) negotiating and compromising with a child
  - b) arguing with the child to convince him
  - c) promising the child things to entice him
  - d) the child fussing and showing his displeasure
  - e) the parent telling the child many times before the child listens
6. when a child is in submission, under obedience, in subjection
  - a) the parent speaks
  - b) the child immediately obeys just because the parent spoke

C. From my observation of a man with his children in submission

1. 1998 Lampasas, TX
2. church member - high school track coach

D. From my experience as a father

1. a child, at about age 1 1/2, can be observed trying to establish himself over his parents rather than under
  - a) he will not go when told to go
    - (1) go sit in your chair
    - (2) go get in the car
    - (3) go get in your bed
    - (4) go out of the pantry
  - b) he will not come when told to come
    - (1) come here
  - c) he will not do what he is told to do
    - (1) throw that away
    - (2) put these toys away
    - (3) say “please” and say “thank you”
    - (4) eat with your spoon

- d) if his parents try to make him do anything, he will fight
  - (1) try to squirm away
  - (2) scream cry
  - (3) throw himself down
  - (4) actually hit and kick
- e) he will demand his parents do things, and will punish them if they do not obey his demands
  - (1) repeat his demands, sounding more and more unhappy
  - (2) scream cry
  - (3) throw himself down
  - (4) push, pull, hit, kick
- 2. if the parents firmly establish themselves as over, and the child as under, during the year or year-and-a-half between age 1 1/2 and 3
- 3. if the parents do not establish themselves as over, and the child as under, at that very tender age, it will be much harder to do so when the child is older
- 4. it is worth any amount of trouble to settle with your child that the parents are over him and he is under them
- 5. I know some cases are harder than others
  - a) in some conditions it is easier
    - (1) when you start early, at about 1 1/2 years old
    - (2) when you are working with a child who is more compliant by natural personality
    - (3) when you have support from your family
    - (4) when you have the child all the time, and have lots of time with the child
  - b) in some conditions it is harder
    - (1) when you did not know what to do when the child was a toddler, and bad habits of disobedience are well-entrenched in an older child
    - (2) when you are working with those exceptionally stubborn children, who come along about 1 in 10 or so, and are very non-compliant by natural personality
    - (3) when you have little support from family, or even opposition
    - (4) when you have the child only part of the time, or have very little time with the child

A man ruling over his own house well is a very important matter,  
Consisting primarily in one thing: having his children in submission  
Children in submission will come, go, and do as the parent says

#### IV. Grasp Where the Responsibility Lies

##### A. Not with

1. the children - moral culpability, yes
2. the wife - obligation to help, yes
3. the servants
4. the society
5. the government

##### B. With the man

1. usually the children's father
2. sometimes some other man, such as a grandfather or stepfather or uncle

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Children in submission will come, go, and do as the parent says  
The responsibility for this lies with the man of the house

#### V. Let This Weighty Responsibility Humble You Before the Lord

##### A. I myself am not even under obedience; I am not in subjection!

1. I need to be forgiven
2. I need to be helped

##### B. Having my children in subjection seems a million miles from where I am right now

1. my culture has failed me
2. I have failed my child

##### C. My situation or my child's stubbornness makes it particularly difficult, so I can't see how in the world I can do this

##### D. This being the standard, how can the church ever have sufficient pastors and deacons?

##### E. Look to the Lord Jesus Christ

1. for righteousness in this - He rules His own household perfectly
2. for forgiveness of all your sins in this area
3. for hope of eternity uncorrupted by your sins

## CONCLUSION

A man ruling over his own house well is a very important matter,  
Consisting primarily in one thing: having his children in submission  
Children in submission will come, go, and do as the parent says  
The responsibility for this lies with the man of the house  
Let the church be humbled before the Lord, and seek help from Him  
That the men in this church may rule their own households well, having  
their children in submission.

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 3:1-4

Willie - Scripture Reading - Luke 7:1-10

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - Psalm 3:5-8

Rita - Prelude [please choose]

Rita - Trinity 370 "Jesus Saves!"

Rita - Trinity 26 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Rita - Trinity 186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Series: One That Rules His Own House Well

A Man Rules His Own Household

To Rule His Own Household Well Is to Have His Children in Subjection

-keeping himself over

-keeping his children under

Creation

The Fall

Cain killed his brother. The Proverbs comment on this.

Patriarchs

Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Calvin:

That the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Moses intimates that Abraham should become possessed of the grace promised to him, if he instructed his children in the fear of the Lord, and governed his household well. But under the person of one man, a rule common to all the pious is delivered: for they who are negligent in this part of their duty, cast off or suppress, as much as in them lies, the grace of God. Therefore, that the perpetual possession of the gifts of God may remain to us, and survive to posterity, we must beware lest they be lost through our neglect. Yet it would be false for any one hence to infer, that the faithful could either cause or deserve, by their own diligence, that God should fulfill those things which he has promised. For it is an accustomed method of speaking in Scripture, to denote by the word that the consequence rather than the cause. For although the grace of God alone begins and completes our salvation; yet, since by obeying the call of God, we fulfill our course, we are said, also in this manner, to obtain the salvation promised by God.

Law



Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

## History

Joshua 24:15

Eli does not restrain his sons

1 Kings 1:6 David does not displease his son

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

## Wisdom

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Pr 13:24

Pr 22:15

Pr 23:13-14

Pr 29:15

## Apostolic Epistles

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not

your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:5-11 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Apostolic Rule for Choosing Pastors and Deacons