



Habits of a Disciple – Submission and Service

Susie Aldridge – 25 Jan 2026 (watch talk [here](#))

Susie encouraged us in the way of Jesus that helps us push back against the world's 'me first' culture. She described submission as surrendering our own wills and wants to God in order to love and celebrate others. **Submission is yielding to Jesus** in every thought, decision, word, conversation or act; yielding our will to Jesus, one step at a time. Reflecting on Philippians 2, Susie encouraged us that we submit to the God who submitted first, therefore, God does not ask us to do anything he hasn't done. For this reason, we also **lovingly submit to one another**.

Key verses

- Phil 2:1-11
- Mark 8:34-35
- Mark 9:35
- John 6:38
- Mark 10:45
- Ephesians 5:21

Richard Foster in The Celebration of Discipline suggests submitting to others is:

- the spirit in which we view other people
- the freedom to give up our rights for the sake of others
- the ability to lay down the need to get our own way

Submission is the heart posture; service is the outward expression, overflowing from a submitted heart.

Susie encouraged us that:

- Serving the church is part of membership and is a healthy indicator of discipleship
- Serving is part of our worship to God
- Serving is going to cost us something (**Mark 8:34**); we sacrifice status, our own desires, comforts, preferences, time, energy and more (**Phil 2:2-5**).
- Serving is a Kingdom thing, bringing life to ourselves and to others (**Mark 8:35**)

Reflect and discuss

- What comes to mind when you hear the word submission?
- How is God's view of submission different from the world's view?
- In what areas of your life are you currently struggling to submit your will, wants or ways to God?
- What does submission to one another look like in a healthy relationship?
- What are your gifts/strengths and how are you using them to serve others?
- Do you ever find yourself serving reasons other than loving submission to God? E.g. to impress, gain approval, duty or obligation.
- What are some regular mundane tasks you could transform into a spiritual discipline of service?