

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

BE SUBJECT TO GOD

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

Logos are a must. Every company, business and organization must have a logo. A logo identifies who one is, what they do and with whom they are affiliated. Having a logo people can associate with a company, business or organization is priceless. Businesses pay significant amounts of money to develop their logo and then protect it. Think of the many logos you see that you immediately associate with a certain company, business, organization, product, etc.

The Greek verb for “submit” (be subject) means to “place or arrange under.” If you will, James here in verse 7 is exhorting you to put on your Christian logo that identifies you as a believer in and follower of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This occurs, not through your purchase of a certain color or style of clothing. It is not embroidering a cross or picture of Jesus on your hat, shirt or blouse. Rather, this is internal. Your submission to God occurred when your pastor marked you with the sign of the cross upon your forehead and your breast at your baptism. This marked you visibly to the world as God’s child. You carry this mark (Logo) through the words you speak, the activities in which you participate, through your associations, how you spend your time, etc.

How does God want you to be submissive or subject (wear your logo) to Him? Ephesians 5:22-33 says a wife does this by submitting to her husband and a husband by loving his wife. 1 Peter 5:5 tells young men to submit to their elders. The second half of this verse exhorts all Christians to live humble lives (submitting themselves to those around them.) Hebrews 13 says to “submit to your leaders.”

Submitting to God in all things comes under the umbrella of the First Commandment. Jesus taught this with these words, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Living in this evil and rebellious world, the Holy Spirit gives you faith to submit to God, filling your heart with the words of the First Commandment to say to unbelievers, critics of your faith and the like, “I must obey God rather than man.” (see Acts 5:29) Wearing your Christian logo you say to the world, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

Your unwavering faith in the Triune God is your logo on display to the world. Submitting to God marks you as His own to live with Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness.

Prayer: Fill my heart, soul, mind and spirit Holy Spirit with Your presence to imprint on me with the indelible blood of Jesus that I am one redeemed and kept holy to life everlasting. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to Your name be praise;
Not unto us but to Your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

Amazing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were made;
Amazing grace— that sent Your Son to save;
Amazing grace— that robed us in Your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.

O faithful love— that shepherd through faithless years;
Forgiving love— that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love— that would not let us turn from You
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.

Not unto us but to Your name be glory,
Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.
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