



Is submission to God a core doctrine of the Christian faith?

Brother John Martin posted on Facebook on 18 August 2026

Yes—but from my vision, “submission to God” is not the deepest or final expression of Christian faith. Submission belongs naturally to a creator–creature paradigm: God is above, humanity is below; therefore the human response is obedience, surrender, and submission. This is an important dimension of biblical spirituality, but my Christological vision goes further.

For me, Jesus reveals a relationship of unity rather than merely submission:

Unity with God: “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

Unity with humanity: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

Unity with creation: the Gospel is proclaimed “to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15).

Unity among all: Jesus prays that all may be one, “as you, Father, are in me and I in you” (John 17:21).

So the movement of Christian spirituality can be understood as from submission to communion, and from communion to realised unity.

This does not mean that obedience, humility, or surrender become unnecessary. Rather, their meaning changes. We do not ultimately submit to God as though God were an external ruler and we were merely subjects. We surrender the ego that separates us from God, from other human beings, and from creation. Through that purification, we awaken to the unity that Christ reveals.

In this sense, Christ is not simply the one who tells humanity to submit to God; Christ reveals what humanity is called to become: consciousness united with God, humanity, and creation.

My formulation could be::

The heart of Christianity is not merely submission to God but the realisation of unity with God, with humanity, and with creation. Submission may be a stage in spiritual growth, but Christ points beyond submission to communion, and beyond communion to unity.

This also gives a beautiful interpretation of “the Kingdom of God.” The Kingdom is not simply a realm to which we submit; it is the transformation of consciousness in which the separation between God, humanity, and creation is overcome in love.

And this fits very closely with my understanding of Christ as the meeting point between the divine and the human, the vertical and the horizontal, God and cosmic, creation.