

## Not Because You Must

(Feb 16, Glen G. Scorgie)

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-11

### SERMON SUMMARY

The focal point of this Sunday's message was the phrase "*Not because you must, but because you are willing . . .*" (1 Peter 5:2)

Embedded in this text is a distinction that cuts to the very heart of a believer's spiritual life. Are we living the Christian way out of a sense of reluctant obligation—that is, "because we *must*"? Or are we living this way because this is what *we* truly *want* to do? Are we performing our Christian duties as required, yet somewhat grudgingly, or are we leaning into this way of life cheerfully and without holding back?

Elsewhere in Scripture, this distinction is framed as one between being God's *servants* and being God's *friends* (John 15:5). Jesus offers us an upgrade into *friendship* with him, a way of relating and responding to him that transcends servile obedience and submission. There will be fewer and fewer conflicts between God's will and ours when we get our hearts in sync with his. There is freedom in being "all in." This is how friendship with Christ naturally expresses itself and grows.

### GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Why is submission to the "lordship" of Christ so important to the Christian life? If our salvation is by "faith alone," is submission to Christ's will and ways merely an optional extra or something essential? Discuss.
2. How would you explain the difference between doing something because you *must* and doing something because you are *willing*?
3. What does it take or require before a Christian is able to move away from being obedient because they have to, to following the Christian way cheerfully and willingly?
4. What is the difference between *agape* love and *phileo* love in the New Testament?
5. What lies at the core of any true friendship, and what does this then imply for a friendship with Christ?
6. Friendship with Christ requires that we be fully aligned with him in our motivations, our priorities, and even our attitudes. Why do you think that living this way can often have special spiritual power?
7. What was your main personal takeaway from the message this week?