

THE ISSUE OF AUTHORITY

Part Four: Authority In Daily Life

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 3:18-24;

Romans 13:1,2; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 1:22

SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2010

OBSERVATIONS AND PRINCIPLES

1. Just as there is an established order of authority within the Godhead, God has established earthly authorities in all areas of life, including the HOME, society and the CHURCH; these authorities have been placed there by God for our BENEFIT and PROTECTION.
2. Our respect for human authority is tied to our respect for God's authority; a GOD-FEARING people is a LAW- ABIDING people.
3. When Satan seeks the destruction of a nation (or a family, or an institution, etc.) the first thing he will do is challenge or attack the AUTHORITY STRUCTURE. This should tell us something.
4. Correct submission to authority is possible only when authority is properly understood and RESPECTED; respect for authority is the fountainhead of proper submission.
5. ACCOUNTABILITY is a good thing.
6. God did not put the authorities in place for no reason—He expects the authorities He has established to be RESPECTED and OBEYED.
7. A healthy relationship with authority is essential to productive and harmonious living in both the NATURAL and SPIRITUAL realms.
8. Proper respect for authority needs to be acquired EARLY IN LIFE; if not learned in childhood it is almost impossible to embrace later.
9. Submission to authority is not about self-worth or self-esteem; it is about BOUNDARIES, ROLES and areas of RESPONSIBILITY. (Note: Submitting to authority in a healthy manner in no way diminishes a person; on the contrary, proper submission to authority enhances our own authority, provides cover and protection and results in increased productivity and healthy, harmonious relationships.)
10. Proper approaches to authority: Willingly SUBMIT, appeal to, influence, put to PRAYER. Improper: ignore, disregard, subvert, challenge, circumvent.
11. When we choose to deny or disregard God's established order of authority there is always a PRICE to PAY; the consequences of doing so are inescapable.
12. Those who learn to relate well to authority in daily life are well on their way to successful living and a life that is PLEASING God and a BLESSING to others.

Related Scriptures: Romans 6:13-18; 13:1-5; 1 Corinthians 16:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:1,2; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 2:15; 3:1,2; 1 Peter 2:13-19; 3:1-9

RESPONSIVE READING

1 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 3:18-24; Romans 13:1,2;
Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 1:22

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.