



Part 2 (Lesson 11)

Authority Relationships

God has some very direct things to say about our relationship as Christians to those who are in authority over us. This is probably one of the most difficult areas for believers to see God's purpose in and to understand God's ways in. Many Christians have never realized the seriousness of this issue and have never seen what God's Word has to say about this area of life. Let's look together at some scriptures that deal with this matter.

I. A Firm Word From the Lord

- A. In Romans 13:1 what does the Lord give us a direct command to do? **(We are to be subject to the governing authorities.)**
- B. What does the Lord say in this verse about authorities that shows us the importance of their role? **(Governing authorities are established by God)**
- C. What authorities do you think are being spoken of? **(Civil or governmental authorities as well as authorities in the family, church and work place)**
- D. List two things found in Romans 13:2 that God says about a Christian rebelling against authority. **(He says that those who resist authority are actually resisting God's ordinance because He established those authorities. Also, He says that those who resist authority will receive condemnation upon themselves.)**

II. Four Basic Structures of Authority

A. Family **(Father/Husband) - (Mother/Wife) - (Children)**

See Colossians 3:18-21; Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 6:20-21; 30:17; 15:5

B. Government **(National - State - Local)**

See 1 Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:1, 3-7

C. Church **(Pastors/Elders - Church Members)**

See 1Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Matthew 18:15-17

(Note: Denominational Leaders could also be considered within this area)

(Question to consider – Is it right to have discipline procedures within the church?)

(Yes, this is clear within the Bible)

D. Business (Work) **(Employers/Bosses/Teachers - Workers/Students)** (Also school)

See Colossians 3:22-24; 1 Peter 2:18; 1 Timothy 6:1-4

(Note – Consider the terms “Boss” or “Teacher” and “Employee” or “Student” here)

III. Three Basic Purposes for Authority

A. To grow in wisdom and character (Luke 2:48-52) **(Jesus remained in subjection to His parents and as a result He grew intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially.)**

B. To gain protection from destructive temptations (1 Samuel 15:23) **(Rebellion is as the sin of divination or witchcraft. Rebellion can bring negative influences in the spirit realm.)**

C. To receive clear direction for life decisions (Matthew 8:5-13) **(The Centurion understood spiritual principles because of his understanding of natural authority.)**

IV. A Balanced View

A. We have the right to **(appeal)** to those in authority. (1 Timothy 5:1)

B. Notice the actions of Daniel in Daniel 1:8-13 . What was his dilemma? **(He wanted to obey God's command but also be respectful of the human authority he was under.)**

1. What did he ask and who did he ask? **(He asked the commander over him and others to allow them to be tested, eating only the food directed in God's law.)**

2. Describe his attitude. **(He was respectful and displayed no sign of rebellion or disrespect.)**

3. How did God honor Daniel's attitude and actions? **(Daniel and those with him were found to be healthier than those eating the king's food. They were allowed to continue.)**

C. What attitude does the Lord want us to have toward others? (1 Peter 5:5)(Eph. 5:21)
(He wants us to show humility and to be subject one to another.)

D. We have the right to appeal to authority in an attitude of humility. We should learn the wishes of one in authority over us and strive to fulfill those wishes as much as possible. When asked to do something which would cause us to violate other scriptural principles, we can respectfully refuse to obey but not in a rebellious attitude. Rebellion is always wrong. What does 1 Samuel 15:23 say about rebellion? **(Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft or divination.)**

Conclusion – What is the Lord saying to you about your relationship with those who are in authority over you? Is there anything you need to change or make right? _____
