

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY 01

AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION

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A proper understanding of authority and submission in Chi Alpha is crucial in order for us to fulfill what God has called us to as a body of Christ. God's will and the Kingdom of God will not be furthered through us if we do not submit to His authority both directly and indirectly (delegated authority).

Authority and submission is a very overlooked and often abused issue in Christianity today. Too often we see one extreme or the other. We see authoritarian rule—leaders abusing their God-given authority or either lack of submission and rebellion.

We must understand and teach people the importance of submitting to God and his delegated authority. God's kingdom goes forward on the basis of his authority. It's our responsibility to teach this important principle of God's Kingdom.

The majority of problems with authority today come from those who claim they are only responsible to God. They do not understand delegated authority. To be responsible to God is to be responsible to those above us and below us in the position God has called us to serve

The issue is obedience versus rebellion. **Rebellion** was Satan's primary action. He had a heart of rebellion, which is our heart apart from God. In the garden when Adam and Eve sinned, they disobeyed God and mankind joined Satan in his rebellion against God's authority. We are born with a sinful nature and therefore a heart of rebellion.

Obedience was Jesus' primary action. He submitted himself to God's authority and made salvation possible.

We must recognize rebellion in ourselves. It's often disguised or justified. The kingdom of God going forward is our desire. We pray, "Let your kingdom come". What more is this than people being saved, baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit and discipled? God's kingdom goes forward on the basis of submission to His authority. Christ initiated God's Kingdom on earth when he submitted to God's authority. We continue this when we the church submit to Christ and his delegated authority here on earth. In doing so, God's authority is established on earth, His will is done and His Kingdom comes.

(The following are steps to be taken to prepare to teach on Authority and Submission. These steps should be done over the course of a week and cannot be rushed.)

Step 1: Read and review the outline of Spiritual Authority (also known as Authority and Submission).

Step 2: Read the “Examples in Scripture” pages, noticing the illustrations of submission to God’s authority.

Step 3: Read and study the Authority and Submission Discussion Notes

Step 4: Small Group Meeting

Ask group members to discuss Bible passages.

- How did David treat Saul?
- What is the difference between Jesus’ behavior and Satan’s?

More possible questions and discussion topics.

- What two senses should a Christian have?
- What must be our first thought wherever we go?
- What is the difference between obedience and submission?