

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY 04

AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION DISCUSSION NOTES

- “A Christian ought to have two senses: the sense of sin and the sense of authority.”
- “Authority is a tremendous thing in the universe—nothing overshadows it. It is therefore imperative for us who desire to serve God to know the authority of God.”
- Satan/Jesus.—Satan rebelled against authority. Jesus who was equal with God submitted himself to God’s authority and became obedient to the point of death on the cross.

ROMANS 13 - SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITIES

ROMANS 12:1-7 ¹Everyone 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. ²Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

- “We as Christians often do what we like and refuse to do what we dislike. We never ponder whether or not we are acting out of obedience.”
- “Before we can work for God we must be overturned by his authority. Our entire relationship with God is regulated by whether or not we have met authority. If we have, then we shall encounter authority everywhere, and being thus restrained by God we can begin to be used by Him.”

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

- “How could Paul, being a clever and capable person, listen to the words of Ananias—an unknown little brother mentioned only once in the Bible—if he had not met the authority of God.”

ACTS 9:17-19 ¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

- “Let us not see the man but only the authority vested in him.”
- How could David treat King Saul as he did? There is no question that Saul’s conduct was wrong. King Saul relentlessly tried to kill David in order to protect his kingdom. (And we complain about some of the authority figures in our lives). David obviously kept his eyes on God and not Saul.

1 SAMUEL 24:5-6 ⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD ."

1 SAMUEL 26:10-11 ¹⁰ As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹ But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed.

- “He who rejects God’s delegated authorities rejects God’s own authority”
- “Therefore, wherever we go, our first thought must be to find out who are those to whom God wants us to subject. We can find authority everywhere and learn to obey authority at anytime.”

- “If God dares to entrust His authority to men then we can dare to obey.”

SUBMISSION TO EACH OTHER (PEERS)

- “Only by accepting the functions of others—accepting their authority—does one receive the wealth of the whole body.”
- “The eye alone can see, so in the need to see you have to submit to the authority of the eye and receive its supply.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:17-21 ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

- “God has joined many members together, and it is downright rebellion for anyone to resist the help of the other members.”

SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE IN LIGHT OF ABUSED AUTHORITY

- “Should the delegated authority issue an order clearly contradicting God’s command, he will be given submission but not obedience. We should submit to the person who has received delegated authority from God, but we should disobey the order which offends God.”

ACTS 5:28-28 ²⁸“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.”
²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”

- “Obedience is related to conduct: it is relative. Submission is related to heart attitude: it is absolute.”

DANIEL 6:10 ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

- “God alone receives unqualified obedience without measure; any person lower than God can only receive qualified obedience.”