

God's View of Authority in Your Life

A basic understanding of God's authorities in our life is found in Romans 13:1-3. Look up this verse and read it. Answer:

Who is Paul writing to? _____ Does this include you? _____

Who establishes authority? _____ Which ones? _____

List out some authorities in your life:

According to v2 who do you rebel against when you rebel against authorities in your life? _____

What are the consequences of rebellion? _____

How do we get free from fear of those in authority?

Three Basic Purposes For Authority in Your Life

1. To Grow in Wisdom and Character

Read Luke 2:40-52.

This is the only recorded event in Jesus' life between the ages of 2 and 30! This discussion occurred when Jesus was how old? _____

The question facing the boy Jesus (remember He is the Creator of the universe and giver of Life) was, "Should He follow His spiritual calling and be about His Father's business (v49) or should He obey His parents and leave His ministry at the temple?"

How might you have responded?

What did Jesus do?

Why do you think He obeyed?

What was the result of Jesus' obedience (see v52 for the answer)?

2. To Gain Protection from Harmful Temptations

God's laws and authorities in our lives are not to hold us back but to help us be protected from destructive temptations and influences. For a better understanding of this principle read 1 Samuel 15:1-26.

Samuel was a prophet of God - that means he spoke for God. What did God instruct Saul to do according to verse 3 (be specific):

What did Saul do according to verses 4-9?

Why do you think Saul did this? Would you be tempted to do the same?

What was God's response to Saul's disobedience (verses 10-19)?

Saul justified his "obedience" in what ways (verses 20-21)?

God compared Saul's disobedience to what (v 23)?

Divination is the same as witchcraft (KJV). Under who's power do we place ourselves when we participate in witchcraft?

So if the Bible compares rebellion or disobedience to the sin of witchcraft, under who's power do we place ourselves when we rebel or disobey God's authorities in our lives?

3. To Receive Clear Direction for Life's Decisions

Read Ephesians 6:1-3.

Who is addressed? _____ Is that you? _____

What are you supposed to do?

What are the benefits promised to those who obey?

Turn to Deuteronomy 5. What is contained in this chapter? _____

List each of the 10:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Now read Deuteronomy 6:1-3.

Who is being spoken to?

What are they to do with God's laws & commands?

Who put parents in charge?

What will be the result for the children who hear & obey?

Four Basic Structures of Authority under God

1. Family

Father → Mother → Children

I challenge you to understand and believe these structures. What does authority relationship is taught in each verse?

Colossians 3:20 - _____

Ephesians 6:1-3 - _____

Proverbs 6:20-21 - _____

Proverbs 30:17 - _____

Proverbs 15:5 - _____

1 Timothy 3:4 - _____

1 Peter 3:1 - _____

1 Peter 3:7 - _____

Colossians 3:18 - _____

Colossians 3:19 - _____

Eph 5:24,25 - _____

2. Government

National Leaders → Local Officials → Citizens

1 Peter 2:13-14 - _____

Romans 13:1 - _____

Romans 13:3,4 - _____

Romans 13:5 - _____

Romans 13:6,7 - _____

3. Church

Church Leaders (Elders & Pastors) → Church Members

1 Thes 5:12-13 - _____

Heb 13:17 - _____

1 Timothy 5:17,18 - _____

1 Peter 5:1-3 - _____

4. Business

Employer → Employees

Colossians 3:22-24 - _____

1 Peter 2:18 - _____

1 Timothy 6:1-2 - _____

Titus 2:9 - _____

Colossians 4:1 - _____

Ephesians 6:9 - _____

Making Wise Decisions

When you are faced with a major decision what are some of the means that you can know whether or not it is God's will for your life?

Consider a big decision like choosing a mate – the comments show how each means of guidance can help or guide you.

- 2 Tim 3:16,17 S _____ This is the ultimate means for know what is right or wrong. God says his word is truth (Jn 17:17). Use Scripture to determine what a Godly mate might look like - character, godliness, and desire to serve others seem to be high on God's guidance.
- Romans 13:1,2 G _____ Government sets laws and rules which guide - you must be of a certain age by law. This is guidance!
- Hebrews 13:17 E _____ God has given us church leaders (elders & pastors) to help guide us spiritually. God commands us to obey for OUR benefit.
- Proverbs 27:6 F _____ Beware of this form of guidance – it is often elevated above other forms. Ask yourself, are your friends godly and seeking His purposes and will? If not they will quickly lead you astray! 1 Cor 15:33.
- Phillipians 4:6,7 P _____ God promises to guide and direct us as we examine our hearts and present our requests to Him. Note the importance of giving thanks to God for what you do have!
- Isaiah 58:11 Circumstances _____ God promises that those who seek Him will be guided and protected. Again beware of circumstances as a means of guidance – this is probably the least important, but we often give it the most importance!
- Proverbs 6:20-22 F _____ & M _____ In young people's lives, this is the strongest form of guidance God gives us after Scripture.

How Authority Works in the Hands of Our Mighty God

Proverbs 21:1 According to this verse, God controls the heart of a _____. What does the king represent in our day? _____. Do you believe that this is the same idea found in Romans 13:1-6? _____ Why or Why Not?

God's Persistence in OUR Character Development

God is a sovereign God - what does the word sovereign mean (use a dictionary)?

Read Romans 8:28-29. Over what things does God have control in our life?

Look @ v29 - what is the purpose of God working in our life?

So that we might be c_____ to the _____ of His Son.

Explain what that means in YOUR own words?

It is helpful to think of our lives as diamonds that our Maker is forming. Scripture teaches us that God is even more concerned that our character become like that of Jesus Christ than He is with the "tools" that He uses to shape our lives. What this principle means is that if we reject certain tools in our life (parents, teachers, etc.) God will raise up other "tools" to chip away the rough edges of our character. Remember God is more concerned with our character than our comfort!

- Consider this example: Many young men say in disgust, "I'm tired of taking orders from my parents!" They look for a way out and many take off and join the military. What is the 1st thing the military does with new recruits? Yep, send the young man who doesn't want authority of his parents to Boot Camp - a place where you are under a harsh authority for 24 hours a day!

In God's school of life there are no failures. He doesn't give up on us. He merely repeats lessons in our lives until He develops our character the way He wants it to be - like Christ's.

Consequences for Rejecting Authority in Our Lives

A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy. Proverbs 29:1

Write this verse in your own words:

The lessons taught in the Scriptures are for our instruction.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

King Saul rebelled against God several times and each time there were consequences:

1. Read 1 Samuel 13:13-15. What was the consequence?

His K_____ would not endure.

2. Read 1 Samuel 15:26-28. What was the consequence?

His K_____ was taken from him and given to _____.

3. Read 1 Samuel 28:19-9. What was the consequence?

Tomorrow y_____ will be with me. In other words his life would be cut short!

Scripture teaches a relationship between obedience to God and His authorities and a long and healthy life. Write out the relationships:

Ephesians 6:1-3 C_____ obey p_____ result: _____

Proverbs 3:7-8 F_____ the Lord & _____ evil. result: _____

Seven Steps of Action When Asked to Do Something You Think is Wrong

It is so easy for us to think we are following Christ and are even suffering for Him when we disobey commands that violate His Word. But unless we have carefully followed these steps, we are usually deceiving ourselves.

1. Check Your Attitude

- Have you honored those whom God has placed over you?
Ephesians 6:1-2 teaches
- How did you speak or respond?
Proverbs 15:1 - examine _____
- Were you critical or condemning?
Ephesians 4:29 teaches speech must be
- Are you being lazy?
Proverbs 10:4 says lazy hands _____
- Is this pleasing to God?
1 Corinthians 10:31 we should do all for _____

2. Clear Your Conscience

- Correct your attitudes which have offended
Rom 13:7,8 - we are to o___ no one anything. Seek forgiveness quickly.
- Have you sought to do the INTENTION of those in authority?
Eph 6:6 - when are we to obey authorities?
- Have you confessed your sin & sought forgiveness?
1 John 1:9 - what does God do when we confess our sin?

3. Understand the Basic Intentions of Authority

- Humbly ask the authority what their goals and wishes are?
Proverbs 10:14 - what does this verse teach?
- Humbly seek out the biblical principle behind their command.
Proverbs 9:12 - write this in your own words:
- Ask them to point out your blind spots!
Proverbs 10:8 ; Proverbs 13:1
- Think about bigger goals which God may have designed to be accomplished in YOU through the situation.

4. Design Creative Alternatives

- Examine your OWN spirit first in order to discern motives
Romans 3:10-12 - our hearts are wicked - are you seeking your desires or God's?
- Study the Proverbs to learn how to respond
- Humbly ask if there are other ways or alternatives to reach the goal of the authority
Remember, your authority often will decide if you can be trusted by past performance, don't allow this to frustrate you... rather, determine to create an atmosphere of trust.
Matthew 5:37 - why does Jesus say this?

5. Humbly Appeal to Your Authority

- Be gentle and respectful
Proverbs 15:1 - use a _____ tone
Romans 13:7 - giving r _____ is our God-given responsibility
- Explain your God honoring motives humbly
Have you let them know you are seeking to obey?
Do you genuinely intend to obey or are you just avoiding?
- Explain how a creative alternative will accomplish THEIR goal
Proverbs 15:12,20
- Leave the final decision up to your authority (for it is God who controls their heart)!

6. Give God Time to Change Your Authority's Mind

- God will work in your authority's life
Exodus 10:1 - who hardened Pharaoh's heart? _____ Why?
Could God be trying to teach you through your authority?
- Constantly evaluate YOUR behavior while you wait
1 Peter 3:13-17 : List out some of the principles taught in these verses:

When you have done these six steps God will usually show us what He wants us to do and He will resolve the situation for our benefit. Very rarely will you ever be asked by God to take step #7. Carefully evaluate your handling of the 1st 6 steps before going to step 7!

7. Suffer for Doing What is Right If Necessary

- Matthew 10:32-39
The disciples were to be ready to be _____ by family rather than deny C _____
- We are always to proclaim the G _____ even when forbidden by government officials and religious leaders. Acts 4:18-19.
- Daniel was willing to be k _____ rather than stop worshiping God or worship the king. Daniel 6:12-16.