

God is the Source of All Authority

Authority Originates from A Source

- Rom 13:1 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*
- Rom 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves*

Note key Insights on Authority

- . **God is the source or the author of all authority**
- . **He has Total Authority and He delegates or entrusts His Authority to people**
- . **People who hold authority, hold God given appointments**
- . **Whenever we face or encounter authority we encounter the delegated authority of God Himself**
- . **We are faced with two options:**
 - **Submit** to the governing authority
 - **Resist** the governing authority actively or passively
- . **Resisting authority when we encounter it, results in a judgment that we are resisting God Himself and as a result we experience consequences**

Aligning with Authority is called Submission

What does the Word Submit mean?

- The Word “Submit” has much emotional baggage around it because of the misuse of authority and the term “Submission”
- . **People fear and resist or avoid submission because**
 - Previous bad experience with authority figures
 - Cultural resistance or antagonism to the word “Submission”
 - Ignorance of God’s Order and the benefits of submission

The Meaning of Submission

- . **“Submit”....Gk. Hypotasso...to arrange or rank under someone, yield to someone’s advice or direction**
 - *It means to arrange in a specific order so as to succeed in working together towards achievement or victory*
 - *It means to yield to a higher authority*
 - *It means right alignment with the person carrying authority*

Submission is always Freewill in God’s Kingdom

- Submission in the kingdom of God is always voluntary
 - . We choose to submit
 - . We can choose not to submit
 - . Anytime there is compulsion it is not a manifestation of the Kingdom of God but of the power of darkness

Four Reasons We Choose to submit to authority

- . We desire to please God and be aligned with His will
- . We desire to experience the blessing and favour of God
- . We desire to be able to operate in the authority of God

- . We want to avoid the painful consequences of resisting authority

II. **The Benefits and Blessings of being “Under Authority”**

I. **The Centurion**

- Mat 8:8 *The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.*
Mat 8:9 *For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*
Mat 8:10 *When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*

◦ **The Centurion understood authority and how it operated**

- . The Centurion was submitted to the source of his authority, “under authority”
- . There were boundaries and limits to the extent of his authority
- . The Centurion was given or delegated authority over 100 soldiers, “authority over”
- . He was required to use his delegated authority to carry out the instructions of the one in command of or “over him”

II. **Benefits of Being under Submission to Authority**

- . Under Authority is the safest place to be, aligned with God’s order
- . You are able to exercise spiritual authority more confidently
- . It gives freedom from stress, you have someone to watch over you and correct you
- . The weight of responsibility is transferred to the person above you
- . The absence of authority over your life makes you vulnerable to temptation and failure
- . There is a security comes from clear defined responsibilities, boundaries, and accountability
- . You are free from needing to promote or protect yourself
- . You are protected from making poor or destructive decisions
- . You don’t try to do things you are not authorised to do

III. **Who is a Safe Authority to be Under?**

◦ **What to Look For?**

- . A Person who is themselves under authority
- . A Person who has a track record of wisdom and fruitfulness in relationships and life
- . A person who needs nothing from you
- . A Person who doesn’t use you to profit themselves personally
- . A Person who is not afraid to correct you if you need it

III. **Jesus Modelled Being “Under Authority”**

I. **His Parents**

- Luk 2:50 *But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.*
Luk 2:51 *Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*
Luk 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

- Jesus understood His calling from God and sought to receive training for it
- His parents did not understand, neither would they agree with Him
- They required that Jesus accompany them away from the temple in Jerusalem and back to their family business in Nazareth
- Jesus was “*subject to them*”
- “*Subject*”....Gk...*hupotasso*...to submit to the authority of , position under
- **Jesus recognised and honoured His parents and their Role in His Life**
 - Jesus understood his parents were His primary authority and He needed to honour them and yield to their instructions, whether he agreed with them or no not
- **Note what Jesus did:**
 - He humbled Himself
 - He recognised and honoured His Parents
 - He submitted to the instructions of His parents

- **Note the Benefits:**
 - Luk 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*

- **Jesus submitted to His Parent’s authority**

2. **John the Baptist**

- Mat 3:13 *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Mat 3:14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*
- Mat 3:15 *But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.*
- **Jesus recognised and honoured John the Baptist and His Prophetic ministry**
 - John the Baptist was Jesus cousin and 6 months older than Him
 - Jesus recognised and honoured the prophetic ministry and Kingdom Authority carried by John
 - Jesus was 30, but He did not seek to launch His own ministry independently
 - Jesus understood He needed to submit to the ministry of John and be baptised by him
 - He did this to fulfil righteousness...to align with God’s order
- **Note what Jesus did:**
 - He humbled Himself
 - He recognised and honoured John as a prophet
 - He submitted to the ministry of John
- **Note the Benefits:**
 - Mat 3:16 *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*
 - Mat 3:17 *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- **Jesus submitted to John’s authority**

3. **Holy Spirit**

◦ Mat 4:1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

◦ **Jesus recognised and honoured the Holy Spirit and His Ministry**

- . Even after His encounter and anointing Jesus did not rush out to do ministry
- . He recognised the need to be led by the Holy Spirit, whose assignment was to prepare and empower Him

◦ **Note what Jesus did:**

- . He humbled Himself
- . He recognised the Holy Spirit and His need for him
- . He submitted to the direction and preparation of The Holy Spirit

◦ **Note the Benefits:**

- . Luk 4:14 *Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*

◦ **Jesus submitted to the Authority of The Holy Spirit**

4. **Father God**

◦ Jhn 5:19 *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*

Jhn 5:20 *For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

◦ Jhn 6:38 *For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.***

◦ **Jesus recognised and Honoured His father as the Source of Life and Ministry**

- . Jesus recognised His Father had given Him an assignment to fulfill
- . Jesus had no personal agenda. He was focussed on pleasing His father and fulfilling His Father's will

◦ **Note what Jesus did:**

- . He humbled Himself
- . He recognised His Father as the source
- . He submitted His will to the will of His Father

◦ **Note the Benefits:**

- . Php 2:9 *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

Php 2:10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

Php 2:11 *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

◦ **Jesus submitted Himself to the will of Father God**

IV. **Keys to Rightly Align with Authority**

1. **Recognise the Authority of God(Rom.13:1-2)**

- . To recognise the authority of God means to Fear and Honour Him
- . Realise the source of a person's authority is God Himself

- . This means that resisting Authorities is Resisting God
- . Submitting to and working with authorities is submitting to God

2. **Resolve Previous Conflicts with Authority Figures**

- . Previous unresolved conflicts with authorities leave wounds and attitudes in the heart
- . This leads to judgments and dishonour of all authority figures and resulting conflicts
- . Sometimes people cover this by saying: *"I only submit to God and not to man"*

3. **Identify Authority Figures that God has Assigned to your life**

- . Who are the authority figures in your life?
 - . Parents?
 - . Pastors?
 - . Leader?
 - . Employee?
 - . Supervisor?
 - . Police/
 - . Government official?
- . Note Rom.13:4 *He is the **minister of God to you for good***

4. **Pray for them regularly**

- . 1Ti 2:1 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,*
- . 1Ti 2:2 *for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*
- . 1Ti 2:3 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*
- . God commands us to pray for **all who are in authority**

5. **Honour them**

- . 1Pe 2:17 *Honor all people.*
 - . The simplest way to honour a person is to express gratitude
 - . Appreciate them for their service
 - . A gift or card or note is another way to honour people who do serve you
 - . Another way you honour people is raising any issues or misunderstandings that you have with them with the goal of understanding and resolution

6. **Invite their Input, Counsel, and Feedback in your life**

- . Pro 20:5 *Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.*
 - . Part of being voluntarily submitted to someone is access to their wisdom and perspective
 - . Ask for it openly, and appreciate it when it is given even if it is not what you wanted to hear
 - . Request help if you need it. They may be busy at the time so work around them
 - . Don't be an independent operators, not needing anyone

8. **Receive their Correction without Reacting**

- . Pro 13:18 *Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.*
 - . People who have a role of authority over us usually see things we do not
 - . They see things because of their position, experience, or by revelation from God
 - . When we receive people over us and respond rightly to correction we grow and learn more quickly.

- . Sometimes we don't see what they see immediately. Just pray and give time to the Holy Spirit to reveal and confirm it
- . Remember: Kingdom Authority is Freewill Authority

Defend them from Criticism and Attack

- 1Sa 24:7 *So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul.*
- . David was a man of humility....he had a humble heart and was a man under authority
- . He refused to allow people around him to rise up and attack King Saul
- . He expressed his confidence that since God had appointed Saul, that God would have to address the issues in Saul's life
- . It is very easy in the work place and he church to engage in discussions critical of authority and focussed on enlarging their faults and criticising them
- . Humility and a submitted heart will cause you to resist or remove yourself from such conversations

Authority in the Home

Husband is Head of the Wife

- Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*
- Eph 5:19 *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*
- Eph 5:20 *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- Eph 5:21 *submitting to one another in the fear of God. Wives and Husbands*
- Eph 5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
- Eph 5:23 *For the **husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church;***
and He is the Savior of the body.
- Eph 5:24 *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*
- Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*

Children Honour Parents

- Eph 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*
- Eph 6:2 *"HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with promise:*
- Eph 6:3 *"THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."*

Authority in The Church

Elders and Members

- 1Pe 5:1 *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be*

revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

1Pe 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

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Members and Elders

° Heb 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

° Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.