

**DO WE HAVE AN AUTHORITY PROBLEM?
ROMANS 13: 1-7**

My brothers and sisters mankind has had an authority problem since the Garden. Because when Adam and Eve were presented with the temptation to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they had a crisis of authority an authority problem.

My brothers and sisters God, the Great One, God our creator, had already spoken to them very clearly and asserted his authority to create the rules for his universe. And as we know he had forbidden them to eat from that particular tree and they were expected to obey. Am I right about that?

But my brothers and sisters when the serpent came along, he encouraged them to distrust God's authority. (Gen.3:1) Because Satan questioned God's truthfulness, love and care for them by handing out a seductive and ultimately disastrous alternative. This was a new concept and it was not only tempting but one of total autonomy.

My brothers and sisters Satan did not respect them or the authority of God. Because he had an authority problem, as we are aware. And as the story goes Adam and Eve failed to resist the temptation, given the opportunity to throw off the shackles of God's law and follow their own desires, thus installing themselves as the highest authority in the earth.

There's something that you must know, they jumped in with both feet, and since that time, men and women have spent their lives perfecting the craft of rebellion. We know from Cain to the tower of Babel to Sodom to our day, human beings have lived their lives in conscious rebellion against God's authority. As a result, we see a flagrant disregard for God and His authority throughout the wider culture and in our private lives. We are all guilty, am I right about it?

But my brothers and sisters there is one particularly subtle, more socially acceptable way that our distrust for God's authority manifests itself. According to the Bible, when we show disrespect for human authority we are actually rejecting the authority of God Himself.

The Bible is very clear on the topic that all human authority is established by God. Therefore, it demands our respect and obedience, am I right about it?

Some may ask, "What do you mean preacher?" Well I have four points for you today and they are:

1. God instructs us to obey the government. *Romans 13:1-2* says: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. God instructs children to obey their parents. *Ephesians 6:1* says: **Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**

3. God instructs wives to submit to their husband's authority. *Colossians 3:18* says: ¹⁸**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.**

4. God instructs church members to obey their elders. *Hebrews 13:17* says: ¹⁷**Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.**

Again I ask, "Do we have an authority problem?"

My brothers and sisters all of this is provisional because we are instructed never to obey any human authority if it would lead us to sin against God. So *Acts 5:29* says: ²⁹**Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men. We see that the apostles refused to obey the Jewish leaders because they knew that these men had an authority problem, as they had refused to respect Jesus Christ.**

Do leaders sometimes take their leadership roles to far and over step their boundary? Given that God's word is clear on this subject, why do we find it so difficult to respect the authority God has placed in our lives? And why do we find rebellion against human authority so natural and easy? In my mind there are two reasons for such behavior.

The first being because human authority is so often abusive and misused. A large portion of the world's governments are corrupt. Many husbands are cruel to their wives. Some parents abuse their children or lack personal and moral character. Church leaders sometimes manipulate and harm the very congregations they are called to shepherd.

My brothers and sisters because human authority is controlled by fallen men and women there are abuse and incompetence that tempts us to be disrespectful and rebellious. The Bible states that is the nature of the breast.

The second reason is that we are too proud or prideful. Because when authority is exercised in an appropriately natural way, we desire to rule ourselves. And in our pride, we often think that we know what is best and therefore, being required to submit to a government or a parent, or a husband or a church leader feels humiliating. Therefore we puff up, against such authority; with I know what best attitude is.

So, my brothers and sisters, what should we do about our natural problem with authority? Again we find two possible answers.

1. The first one is that we must begin to honor God by humbling ourselves and honoring those in authority over us. God does not just encourage human authority because it is worthy of our respect in and of itself. Instead, he roots his commands in His own authority.

So we are to obey the government because God has established it. When we show respect to our government and political leaders, even through we may not be thrilled about their politics, policies or decisions, we are showing that we trust God's wisdom and we respect His authority that it will work out to His satisfaction.

So, my brothers and sisters, when church members show respect for their God given leaders, they show confidence in God and His decision making process, and when children show honor to their parents, they are showing that they honor the God who gave them these guardians and thus life. There is a system at work here to be obeyed, do you hear me.

2. The second thing is that we must learn to trust God's authority. It is good that God runs the universe and you and I don't. I'm glad that we lack the wisdom, power and knowledge to order the world, but we must believe that God does.

So, church we must learn to trust him and honor him. He has promised that he would never leave us or forsake us, and he has instituted authority for our benefit. Romans 13:3 says: "For 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.

And Proverbs 3:1-2 says, "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, and they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity." And so we should trust God, because when we rebel against those in authority over us, we rebel against God. Do you want that to be on your record when you get to the doors of the bar of Justice in Heaven? I think not!

So, let us all make a resolution to be people who honor those in authority over us. We must learn to let the comments about our political leaders be salted with respect for the authority God has given to them. We must speak respectfully to our parents, our church leaders, our husbands/wives and all of those who God has established as authority figures in our lives. Because by doing this we will honor God Himself.

But, again I need to remind you of leaders who would lead you to hell. Because as we read in *Daniel 2:1* which says:

¹And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, he dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

And *Daniel 2:47-48* says:

⁴⁷The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

But in *Daniel 3: 13-14*, we see something different happening. Because the king built a huge statue of himself and demanded that everyone worship it, even though he knew that Daniel's God was the God of God's

When The Jewish boys would not worship his statue, he put them in prison. But God saved them and punished the king by sending him out to pasture and had him grazing like an animal until he came to his senses.

But my brothers and sisters that isn't all that happened because God went to the fiery furnace, where the king had placed the boys and engulfed the flame, making it harmless, so no danger or harm could come to the boys and the presence of God sent the king and all of his cronies running for cover. They could not figure this one out. Thanks to God, because we know that, "all things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called for His purpose." My brothers and sisters on that day God showed who HE was and just who was in charge of all things. Thank God for his everlasting mercy, love and grace. Amen!

God has said that all of us must respond to him about our ups and downs. He and he alone are holding us responsible for our action and inaction in this life. We don't have to stand still even about the action of others.

I ask you again, do we have an authority problem. It could be questioning the intelligence of people, showing favor, showing honor or questioning the sincerity of another person in God kingdom work. We all have a charge to keep, a job to do in this kingdom work. Yours may be different from mine and from someone else. The apostle Paul tells us that we all have a job. You should do yours and not question how God gets the job done with others.

Church some people are walking so high that they don't even know that they are sinning when they questions how God gets the job done with others. It's all for his purpose and glory anyway. Do you have an authority problem like Satan did with God?

Some leaders do things that they think no one knows about and lie about it, we all must remember that God knows it all. Do you have an authority problem even with God?

Some people don't realize that showing favorites is against God's purpose. But their excuse is that we all show favorites at one time or another.

**Do you have an authority problem even with God??
When we do God's will we begin to know that he is the authority figure that we need to look up to and let led without our interference. He is highly capable. Do you have an authority problem even with God?**

My brothers and sisters everyone wants to know God's will. But what if God has already given us his will?? Many people have gotten hung up on the 5 to 10 percent of God's will, they do not know, like where to go to school, who to marry, which job to take, and where to live, the things that are the specific will of God. Because sometimes we forget about the 90-95 percent of God's will that we already

know and is recorded in the Bible. This is known as the general will of God as it applies to belief my brothers and sisters.

I ask you again do we have an authority problem even with God because sometimes we live out of contact with God's power and authority and that is when we are drawn into sin. When that happens, our lives simply stop working the way God intended and we develop or have an authority problem.

Yes, God had a purpose for the four young men and had placed it upon their lives; they had learned to respect God's word and to follow His lead. What about you and me, have we learned to follow God's lead or are we still playing around with God's purpose for our lives. BUT the real question is do we know what God's purpose and will is for our lives, his plans for us or are we still stumbling around in the dark doing what we want to do without God in the plan.

Church God has always said that, we must call upon Him in times of need or trouble. So, what else do you need and who else do you need, but GOD who is the answer to all of our problems. I ask why we think all that we need is us. AMEN!

Do we have an authority problem?