

## Submission and Authority, Part 2

### Key Verses:

Romans 13:1 - *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v.20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

### Objective:

When it comes to teachings on spiritual authority, there seems to be a tendency to take the truth of spiritual authority to one extreme or another. In this lesson, we will learn how to keep our attitude toward submission and authority in the proper balance.

### Seven Levels of Spiritual Authority

#### 1) The Authority of God's \_\_\_\_\_

- a) When God showed up in the Garden of Eden after the sin of Adam and Eve, everyone submitted to God's presence...even the serpent (Genesis 3).
- b) When Moses asked to see God, he was allowed to see only a passing glimpse of His presence because he would not have been able to live through it (Exodus 33).
- c) At His arrest, Jesus manifested the authority of His divine presence and it was so powerful that the arresting soldiers fell to the ground.

John 18:6 - *When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground."*

Note: The word "he" is not in the original Greek language. When Jesus responded to their question, he simply answered "I am."

### 2) The Authority of God's \_\_\_\_\_

- a) When you see the One who spoke the Word, then you submit to what He has said!
- b) Religious \_\_\_\_\_ must not take precedence over the authority of God's Word.

Read Mark 7:5-8 NLT - *So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony." v.6 Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. v.7 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' v.8 For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."*

*v.13 - "...And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition..."*

- c) \_\_\_\_\_ loves to undermine the authority of God's Word by distorting or taking Scriptures out of context.
  - i) He tempted Eve (Genesis 3) in the garden and Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4) the same way he tends to tempt us.
  - ii) Common areas where people are in conflict with God:
    - (1) In their \_\_\_\_\_ relationships
    - (2) In the realm of \_\_\_\_\_
    - (3) In the area of sinful \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) The Authority of a Re-educated \_\_\_\_\_

- a) This is the application of the truth of God's Word by the Holy Spirit to your conscience/spirit.

1 Timothy 1:19 - ... *holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith...*

- b) Important: Our conscience is only reliable when it has been re-educated by the Word of God. You cannot trust your conscience until it has been fully submitted to God's Word.

According to 1 Timothy 4:2 NIV, it is possible to deceive yourself in such a way that your conscience becomes "... seared as with a hot iron."

4) The Authority of God's \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership

a) Key Verses:

- i) 1 Peter 2:13 NIV - *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority...*
- ii) Hebrews 13:17 NIV - *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*

- b) The ultimate delegated authority is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 28:18 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."*

- c) All authority must operate out of submission to the higher authorities.

- i) Even Jesus submitted to the authority of God's presence, the Word, and His conscience.
- ii) Jesus submitted as a suffering servant to the will of the Father, leaving us a path to follow (1 Peter 2:21-23).

Examples of Delegated Authorities: apostolic leaders, elders and pastoral authority, parental authorities, husband and wife authorities, etc.

- d) A delegated authority should never \_\_\_\_\_ your genuine re-educated conscience.

Sometimes we may find ourselves in conflict with a delegated authority.

- i) An example is when Peter and the leaders of the early church were commanded to stop preaching in His Name and they refused to comply.

*Acts 5: 29 - But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*

- ii) Is Peter contradicting himself in 1 Peter 2? No, he is simply submitting to the higher authority!

- e) More Examples:

- i) A husband might ask a wife to do something impure that violates her conscience and the Word of God.

- ii) An employer might expect you to doctor the books! If it violates your Christian conscience of the Word of God, you must submit to the higher authority.

- 5) God's \_\_\_\_\_ Authority

This is the authority that comes through making a promise or entering a contract. When you enter into a contract, you usually receive certain rights, but also have a number of responsibilities.

- a) When we sign our name or give a promise, that agreement becomes a source of authority in our lives.
- b) Stipulated authority gives you certain responsibilities and rights.

Matthew 5:37 NKJV - *But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'...*

c) This practical truth takes on a powerful meaning when we consider the rights we have through our stipulated grace covenant in Christ!

6) The Authority of Godly \_\_\_\_\_

a) Honor is due to certain people simply because Scripture tells us to honor them.

b) There is a \_\_\_\_\_ associated with giving honor where it is due.

i) Parents: Ephesians 6:2 - *Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise)...*

ii) Prophet: Matthew 10:41 - *The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward...*

iii) Pastor/Elders: 1 Timothy 5:17, 18 - *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. v. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."*

c) Churches that honor their spiritual fathers are blessed.

*Because Jesus was not honored in His hometown, they did not receive the full blessing of His anointing (Mark 6:4-6).*

d) What if one of your leaders dishonors their position?

i) Let God deal with their correction. We must still honor the office and the anointing.

ii) Examples:

(1) David honored King Saul and was convicted about disrespecting him.

(2) Two of Noah's sons covered his drunken nakedness and were blessed while the other (Ham) brought a curse upon himself (Genesis 9:19-25).

## 7) \_\_\_\_\_ Authority

This is the authority that comes along when a gift of the Spirit is in operation. It could be a prophecy, word of knowledge, or the practical ministry gift of a deacon.

When a gift is functioning, we should submit to the operation of that gift. We can also call this "gift-authority."

- a) Even governmental leaders will put themselves under the authority of the functioning gift.
- b) Worship leaders should always be sensitive to the operation of gifts.
- c) Church leaders will submit to the Spirit's functioning of a particular gift, but the gift-authority will never seek to overrule governing authority.

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## REFLECT

1. Which level of authority do you find you have the greatest challenge submitting to?
2. Describe a good experience you have had working under an authority figure.
3. Why is the authority of a believer in Jesus such a big deal?
4. Do you trust God's Word, the Bible, to be the ultimate authority of truth? Why or why not?
5. Why is it in our best interest to properly work under God's delegated authorities?

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## ACT

Being in "relationship alignment" is to be in proper relationship with 1) the leaders over you, 2) the partners beside you, and 3) to steward the relationships you are influencing.

Which of these three areas do you feel you need to work on this week? What one thing will you commit to do in the next seven days to grow, nurture, or restore one of these key relationships?