

Living Under God's Authority

Week 1: What is Authority? Pastor Peter, 05-08-16

I'm glad you're here today as we begin a mini series called "Living Under God's Authority". A major principle of Christianity is obeying biblical teachings from God. We are going to look at how this impacts our lives of faith during the month of May.

So, What is Authority?

Ans: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

There are 2 sources of Authority: Original or delegated

- An employer has authority because he owns the company; he or she delegates authority to managers to run the company
- A policeman has what kind of authority? **Delegated**

And the Big question of life is this: Does God have ultimate or original authority?

God has Original: He is the Creator

- For Christians, the answer is "Yes"
(Why?) Because everything started from Him.

**"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
-Genesis 1:1**

Question: Why should we consider God's Authority?

Answer: Because it answers the question:
'By what standard should I live?'

- My own? or
- My country's? or
- My family's? or
- My spouse? or
- My friends?
- Am I willing to live under God's orders for my life?
(follow His commandments)

(Umbrella)

So we have a choice to make:

1. Stay underneath His Authority or
2. Live outside His Authority
3. *I was thinking we could sing part of Rihanna's song during this series but decided "Nah"!*

Living under God's Authority is a picture of our relationship with Him

"Then Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father takes care of the vineyard."² He removes every one of my branches that doesn't produce fruit. He also prunes every branch that does produce fruit to make it produce more fruit.

³ "You are already clean because of what I have told you. ⁴ Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me.

⁵ "I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me. ⁶ Whoever doesn't live in me is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Branches like this are gathered, thrown into a fire, and burned."
-John 15:1-6, GWT

Living under God's Authority

1. We **bear fruit** (have a good relationship with Him)
 - a. Makes sense, right?
 - b. God sees me submitting myself to Him
 - c. He sees my love in my devotion and actions
 - d. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commands"

Under God's Umbrella!

When under His Authority

2. We find **Protection**

“For He will command His angels in regard to you,
To protect *and* defend *and* guard you in all your ways [of obedience
and service].” -Psalm 91:11, Amplified Version

What’s the opposite of protection? Destruction

- We give the devil permission to destroy us
Jesus said,
“The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I
came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in
abundance [to the full, till it overflows].” -John 10:10, AMP

Are you experiencing abundant life or a destroyed life?

- The starting point for evaluation is where are you at: Living
Under God’s Authority or outside it?

When under His Authority

3. We find power & direction for life

Again, Jesus said in verse 5:

“I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I
live in them will produce a lot of fruit.” -John 15:5

- Our goal in life should be to tell the story of Jesus.
- Our goal should be to please God
- Direction comes when we willing stay under the umbrella

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.”
-Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV

But what happens when we are outside God’s umbrella?

“Apart from Me you can do nothing” -Jesus

- Empty faith, following our own thoughts, dreams and desires
- Like a parent telling their kids: “Do as I say, not as I do!” “Don’t
you smoke...don’t drink....”
- Christians do this with empty faith (not living what we preach).

Jesus talked about this relationship. He said,

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. My Father will love those who love me; I too will love them and reveal myself to them...Those who do not love me do not obey my teaching.”
-John 14:21, 24, GNT

When under His Authority

4. Living Under God’s Authority requires my effort.

In the NIV Jesus says,

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you.” -vs. 5

- It’s not simply believing
- We must share God’s thoughts, purposes and power
- It’s a two-way relationship
- Remember: God prunes the branches that belong to Him.
Discipleship has a cost. Part of being under the umbrella.

My Next Step: This week I will live under God’s authority by obeying His commands.