

Week 4: Rebellion Proofing My Walk with God
Pastor Peter Smith, 5-29-16

“Scripture says, “God opposes arrogant people, but he is kind to humble people.” So place yourselves under God’s authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. Come close to God, and he will come close to you...”
-James 4:6-8a, God’s Word Translation

We are focusing this month on Living Under God’s Authority. We have considered that:

1. God has ultimate authority because He is Creator of all
2. Authority & responsibility is delegated to others and
3. That submission to authority (how we live in this world) means submission to God Himself.

Today I want us to consider the opposite of living under authority which is the word Rebellion.

To rebel means to **not** come under the authority of someone placed over them (an employee under a manager / a student under a teacher / a person under God). Ever struggle with rebellion?!

Examples of People who rebelled in the Bible:

Moses

- Did not exalt God as the one who could provide water (Moses got mad at the grumbling of people and struck the rock so water came out.)
- Result: Moses wouldn’t see the Promise Land

King Saul

- Removed from position of being King

Lucifer

- Cast down from heaven

NT: Ananias & Sapphira

- They lied to God about giving proceeds from the sale of property (Acts 5:1-7)

- They both died! Wow!

Think about Pastors and Ministries who were ruined or discredited because of rebellion (sometimes sex related)

- A few years ago Ted Haggard, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim & Tammy Baker....

If you and I are rebellious, it means we are exalting something in life above God, which makes it an idol. *Ever think that you may be an idolater?*

Consequences of Rebellion:

1. A destroyed witness with some people
2. If you are married, you will scar your spouse and children.
3. If you have children out of wedlock, you have a lifetime of supporting or raising those children.
4. You may cause other Christians to stumble in their faith walk. Jesus had strong words for people who cause another to stumble!

Steps I can take to Rebellion-proof my walk with God

1. I will **get rid of** my former life

“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.”

-Ephesians 4:22, NLT

Then

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.”

-Galatians 5:22, NLT

- a. How do you know what to crucify? Read the ‘sin’ lists (Gal. 5:19-21; and compare your life to these. (not for the faint of heart!!)

Letting go is an act of your will. **Get serious & decide today:**

- To let go of drugs & alcohol (seek professional help to detox & get sober)
- If you are committing adultery, end the relationship today!
- If you are stealing at work, stop today!

b. Have you given your life to Christ yet? If not, will you today?

The first step is to get rid of my former life. Then

2. I will Guard my heart

**“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”
-Proverbs 4:23, NIV**

- a. Prayer & Bible study helps us say ‘No’ to Gossip, Temptation, and other sins
- b. A small group provides a covering as we gather for worship and study
- c. Be practical with what ‘goes in’ to your heart—be always ready to admit to God when you are too full of hurt, bitterness, and more

So to Rebellion-Proof my walk I get rid of my former life, I guard my heart and then step 3:

3. I will **stay alert** (to evil)

**“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”
-1 Peter 5:8**

- a. The devil looks like you and me! **(Shoplifters)**
- b. He can be a pastor, a teacher, a mom or dad
- c. The Sin of Pride
 - Not every opportunity / decision is from God

- Seek council from other Christians / people who have experience. God speaks this way.
“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”
-Proverbs 15:22, NIV
- Be willing to ask for help!

Finally, to Rebellion-proof my walk with God

4. I will **remember often** God’s view of me

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

-2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT

- Somebody recently, whose life is out of control, asked me to pray for them to remember what God says about their life instead of what the Devil says!
- God calls us ‘Saints’, ‘children of God’, ‘Royal Priests’...
- Basically, He says, Remember who you belong to!
- I think if we live day to day with this understanding, the less we will cave in to the temptation to rebel, follow our own leading, to live outside of God’s authority.
- The choice you make today, to rebel or to live under God’s Authority, will determine your future with God. Choose God today!

My Next Step this Week

I will pay **careful attention** to how I live for God.

If you ask Jesus to be your Savior for the 1st time today, would you let me know on your connection card. Don't forget, drop your updated connection cards in the offering today as the plate comes around. Let us Pray.