

## Week 3 Living Under God's Authority

### Pastor Peter Smith, 05-22-16

“Obey the rulers who have authority over you. Only God can give authority to anyone, and he puts these rulers in their places of power. People who oppose the authorities are opposing what God has done, and they will be punished. Rulers are a threat to evil people, not to good people. There is no need to be afraid of the authorities. Just do right, and they will praise you for it. After all, they are God's servants, and it is their duty to help you. (1-4)

If you do something wrong, you ought to be afraid, because these rulers have the right to punish you. They are God's servants who punish criminals to show how angry God is. But you should obey the rulers because you know it is the right thing to do, and not just because of God's anger. (4-5)

You must also pay your taxes. The authorities are God's servants, and it is their duty to take care of these matters. Pay all that you owe, whether it is taxes and fees or respect and honor.” (6-7) -Romans 13:1-7, CEV

**Story:** An office manager was complaining in their staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. The next day, he attached a small sign to his office door: I'm The Boss! Later that day, he returned from lunch to find that somebody had taped a note over his sign. It read, "Your wife called. She wants her sign back."

- it's hard dealing with authority!

We are talking today about Living Under God's Authority. Are you under the umbrella or outside of it?

### Submitting to God's Authority:

1. All authority comes **from God** (vs. 1)  
(whether people realize this Truth or not!)  
“Only **God** can give authority to anyone, and **he puts** these rulers in their places of power.” vs. 1

2. How I treat others reflects my **relationship** with God  
“People who oppose the authorities are opposing what God has done...” vs. 2
3. Submission to God is shown by **my actions** to others  
“Pay all that you owe, whether it is taxes and fees or respect and honor.” vs. 7

Another translation says,

“Pay everyone whatever you owe them. If you owe taxes, pay them. If you owe tolls, pay them. If you owe someone respect, respect that person. If you owe someone honor, honor that person.”

It's a fight for submission, for 'being under' the role / task / place of another.

- Teachers try to establish it at school;
- Parents at home;
- Employers / Managers at work. Know anybody who has lost their job because of insubordination?
- Ultimately, it's about how we live 'under' God and relate to Him

Thinking about how we should respond to authority the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy the following:

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”  
-1 Timothy 2:1-5, NIV

- Nero was the emperor when Paul wrote this. He bound Christians, covered them in tar & wax, lit them on fire, used them to light the city up!
- Praying for our leaders in govt / those over us is not an option, even if we don't agree with their views

**Question for you:** Have I been praying for our President, Governor, Mayor, Supervisor at work, Mom or Dad?

## **Who has God placed in authority in your life?**

- Teens: mom and dad, grandparents?
- At work, a supervisor, manager, store owner?

Maybe this is a friend from school or family member:

-Can be a real challenge: "I know this person too well...."

**Jesus said**, "A Prophet is without honor in his home town"

- Often true because we get too familiar with a family member or friend.
  - May be hard to give them the respect they deserve at work....
- What was your attitude like this past week toward them?
    - Did you treat them well?
    - Did you follow orders / 'To-Do' lists?
    - Did you pray for them properly?!
    - God looks upon this to see how we are submitting to His authority over us

## **Being mistreated (At work? At home?) Pray for them:**

1. For Salvation (vs. 5)
2. With thanksgiving (vs. 1) for your job, for your family...
3. For God's provision during difficult times...

## **Where's the umbrella at right now for you?**

- Have you had a gradual drift in this area of submitting to leadership in your life?
- Are you wrestling with / struggling with sin and letting go?
- Is God calling you to a deeper walk with Him and you don't want to go?

Rebellion in one area of life often means rebellion in other areas. It's contagious.

- Employers often look at Social Media to judge character before hiring / during employment
- Is it fair? Idk. But they do!

**Today**, ask yourself: “Could my rebellion at work / home be rebelling against God?”

Is God trying to grow your character, patience, love, through your situation at work? Or simply teaching you about submission?

- Job in college: female store manager
- Standoffs, write ups....
- Time of learning to submit, esp. to God!

### **God develops His Children (Hebrews: 12:5-7)**

“My child, pay attention when the Lord corrects you, and do not be discouraged when he rebukes you. Because the Lord corrects everyone he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as a child.”  
Endure what you suffer as being a father's punishment; your suffering shows that God is treating you as his children.”

-Hebrews 12:5-7, GNT

1. God's formation sometimes **hurts**  
He trains us (corrects) and punishes us (whip / flog in Greek!)
2. My unchanging situation (at work / school / home) may be God **forming** me.

Hardship, prayers unanswered, no 'goosebumps'...may all indicate a hard heart in our life! God may be trying to form you, change you

God can only use people who are committed to Him and people who will submit to Him. Join His cause today, give your life to Jesus, and follow Him every day. Amen.

### **My Next Step**

I will live under God's authority this week by **properly treating** the people who have authority over me.