

The Christian and Authority

Joshua 1:8, Psalm 75:6-7, 2 Chronicles 7:12-15

The Bible is a book designed to give soundness and balance in life...every truth is counterbalanced by another truth...and not one contradicts.

God does know best...and if a man will live his life in accordance with the laws and principles of God...He will be blessed.... but if he chooses to live contrary to the laws and principles of God...he will suffer the consequences.

1. The laws of seasons...nature...farming.
2. Laws of the universe...gravity...you jump off a building, you will fall.
3. Moral laws...everyone is not doing it, sexual sense.
4. And just as these laws of God are true...so are the other principles a Christian is to live his life by.

Now, what I want to speak to you tonight is about Authority...The Christian and Authority.

Now I know nobody wants to have any authority over them. "Nobody is going to tell me what to do." But everyone of us does have an authority over us.

Jesus said to his followers at the conclusion of the sermon on the mount, "Ye are salt and ye are light". These things are true about the Christian we are to persevere. We are to give light, and that tells me this:

1. That our presence ought to make a difference wherever we are at. You cannot put salt on something and not know it. You can not bring light into a place and not see it.
2. Our presence should preserve, not destroy. It shouldn't cause strife.
3. If there is any influence of any kind in our community it ought to be a Christian influence.
4. It is said of the church in Acts, they turned the city upside down for Christ.

Now this pulpit is not now, nor will ever be used for a personal, or political reasons, but for scriptural principles. We as Christians must know and must stand for.

I. The Bible and Authority

1. The Bible is full of teachings on authority. Good and bad.... corrupt

2. There are times we need to obey, but also times we cannot obey, let me hasten to say.
3. The only time we are not to obey the authority over us is when they demand us to do wrong before God.
 - a. Exodus 1:15-22. The political government of Egypt required the Hebrew midwives to murder all the male Hebrew babies.
 - b. Daniel 6:10,16,22. Daniel was told not to pray. Their form of removing prayer from school.
 - c. Acts 4:18. They were told not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. The answer is in Mark 16:15, Acts 5:29,42.
4. Today, God holds you accountable to the authority over you. Authority is ordained of God. For our good.
5. Remember God is the ultimate authority and when other authority is in harmony with God's authority we had better submit. Not only submit but also support it and stand for it.
6. God has made His position clear in the Bible. That's where you find out what is right and wrong.
 - a. That is where you can find out what God wants and what His principles are.
 - b. Once we know them, we had better stand for them.
 - c. Stand for them as strong as we would stand against them.

II. Let's Describe Bible Authority

1. There are three areas, where authority stands out loud and clear: The Home, The Church, and The Government.
2. First is the Home, authority in the home. (let me give you a key that will tie all three of these together.) The key is this: All the principles can be applied to each area of authority.
 - a. Ephesians 6:1-3. Children obey and honor your parents.
 - 1) Obey is a readiness to listen and a quickness to do.
 - 2) Honor.... respect....and love.
 - b. Neither force nor explanation is necessary. Authority never argues or explains, nor does it defend itself.
 - c. Key thought: Your honor and obedience does not depend upon the wisdom of the command, nor the understanding of the command. Just do it.
3. Home Authority: Wife to the Husband. Ephesians 5:22-24, 1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Peter 3:1
 - a. The wife is to be in subjection to her own husband. In everything.... ability.... money.

- b. The man is under submission to Christ.
- c. Key Thought: The wife is to submit to the position of marriage, not the person of marriage.
Some say, Preacher if you only knew the heathen, I married you would not say that. There are no exceptions in the Bible!
- 4. Second, is Church Authority.
 - a. God has ordained.
 - b. God has chosen the church to carry his message. 1 Corinthians 16:13-16
 - c. Obey and submit. Hebrews 13:17
 - d. Notice the words overseer and rule over you. Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14
- 5. Notice the order, Pastors in the churches have God given authority over the congregation to reprove (to tell a fault), rebuke (to forbid), exhort (to call near), with all long suffering and doctrine.
- 6. Third, is Governmental Authority Mark 12:17; Titus 2:11-15; 3:1; Romans 13:1-7
 - a. There is no Bible way of getting around that fact. It is right and ordained of God that we should be subject to the political government.
 - 1) Jesus was
 - 2) Paul was
- 7. Just not liking the authority over you is not enough reason to fail to submit.
 - a. 2 Peter 2:9-10
 - b. You'd better be extremely careful before you rebel against the authority over you.
- 8. And if a person does rebel, they are taking themselves out from under God's authority, and making themselves self-appointed judges. Nowhere in the Bible are we to judge, That's God's job.

III. How Can We Defend or Stand for Authority?

- 1. By the same principles we have already mentioned.
 - a. By honoring, by obeying.
 - b. By submitting, regardless of who is in charge.
 - c. By praying. 2 Timothy 2:1-3
- 2. Now if you're not obeying authority, your rebelling, and that is very dangerous.
 - a. Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Numbers 20:24; Deuteronomy 9:7; Psalm 68:6; Isaiah 1:2-4; 30:1; Jeremiah 28:16.
 - b. And my friend, God hates and judges all forms of rebellion.
- 3. Let me try to sum up what I have said.

- a. First, it's right to obey the authority over us, it is ordained of God for our good.
 - b. Now if submitting to authority is learned in the home, practiced in the church, and seen in the government.
4. Now what I am asking you tonight is: Will you submit? Will you support?
- a. It's just plain right to support those in authority over us.

It's possible to lose respect for the Person, but we had better not lose respect for the Position.