

Lesson 21

FEB 08, 2024

Authority and Godly living:

Tit 2:15 - These things (these doctrines) speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Speak, Exhort and Reprove with all authority, **which are all commands for Pastor-Teachers.**

Speak - To communicate , Conversation.

Do not be bashful about it.

Exhort - To comfort and admonish (mild)

reprove with all authority - Strong, chew out, scold, reprove, back them against the wall.

When you study under a Pastor/Teacher, you should submit to His teaching of the Word of God. P/Ts carry the responsibility to teach accurately. God will hold him responsible for what he teaches.

Here is how you should respond to his teaching:

1. Listen to what's being taught.
2. Stay objective listen and concentrate.

3. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you. God the Holy Spirit will make clear to you the truths in the scripture. You must be in fellowship to learn.
4. Ask questions. If you are still unclear on what has been taught, ask questions. Seek clarification with the Pastor or Teacher.

all authority - God has vested authority in the local church in the P-T.

1. The spiritual gift of P-T has the responsibility of shepherding or overseeing the flock and teaching them Bible doctrine.
 - a. Shepherd - Gr: ποιμήν, "Poimen" - one who serves as guardian or leader
 - b. Overseer - Gr: ἐπίσκοπος, "Episcopos" - one who has the responsibility of safeguarding or seeing to it that something is done in the correct way.
2. When God gives a man the responsibility of being a P-T, He also gives him the authority to carry out that responsibility!
 - (a) The authority principle is so important. You cannot learn from a P-T unless you accept his authority.

- (b) Many believers never accept the authority of any P-T so they stay confused and spiritually stagnant.

(NKJV) Hebrews 13:7 Remember those **who rule over you**, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Heb. 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

- (c) There are probably a dozen or more differing viewpoints of scripture taught by diverse teachers who come from different denominations. If you are not sure which one to choose, what do you do?
You ask the Lord to lead you to The Right church and The Right pastor. You will know when you find the right church and the right pastor.
- (d) **Who does God hold responsible for any inaccuracies taught by your P-T?**
Your responsibility is to submit to his leadership. God will take care of a P-T that is teaching falsely!

(e) A P-T should back up his views with scripture.

This is why the P-T needs to understand the original languages so he can properly interpret the scriptures.

The original languages are what demonstrates the accuracy in scripture. If you are going to a church where the pastor is not using the original languages, you are missing out on the truth.

The Holy Spirit will give the P/T discernment. However, it's not just when he is teaching, you also must be in fellowship to understand the teaching. That is why we start out the class every time with restoring fellowship , so you can learn and the Pastor can teach.

Godly living

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, 2) to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. Tit 1:10-14

The Cretans were not known for their civic obedience.

Civic obedience refers to government.

Titus had already instructed the people about their responsibilities towards the state authorities; notice that he is instructed "to Remind them". But perhaps the Cretans had tended to forget that subjection to the authorities was expected from Christians. Paul recognizes that political disobedience, except on matters of conscience, would bring the gospel into disrepute.

The word of God is against all Revolution!

Revolution is a result of Reversionism and Apostasy.

It is a change wrought with violence, overthrow of a duly constituted authority. A true revolution happened with the Jews. They were rebellious and unbelieving. They defied the authority of God. God responds in Isaiah 1:2-5.

2) Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. 3) "An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand." 4) Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly!

They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him.

5) Where will you be stricken again, as you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint.

The thrust of v 2 is that behavior should commend the gospel. The outsider should receive an impression of good law-abiding citizenship, realizing that the ultimate authority over Governments is God's authority, but not in Revolution.

So, if we are to obey our civic authorities, set up under God's authority, *does this mean that we must submit to whatever our Local, State or Federal governing bodies tell us to do?*

We are seeing a conflict in this area at this very moment.

Texas vs. the U.S. Government

What side should we align with; our local state government or our federal government? Our founding fathers were brilliant framers. They established their authority under the authority of God (The Bill of Rights). This is absolutely the correct form of government that we should demand.

We do not have a single ruler like a King or Queen that rule over our country. We have a republic form of government where the representatives answer to the people, not the other way around. A system by the people, and for the people, with a system of checks and balances that keep representatives from becoming tyrannical. We have a Constitution that says this:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare,

and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

This is the preamble of the structure of this nation. The constitution and its articles frame how this country is to operate. We should not obey anyone in government who goes outside of this structure of our Constitution or fails to uphold it. They transgress against the authority of God when they go beyond their delegated authority.

When man's governance is opposed to God, we are to submit to God, not to power hungry man tyrants in government.

Some Christian teachers may quote this scripture to refute this last statement.

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2) Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who

practices evil. 5) Therefore, you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7) Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Listen to this from Chuck Baldwin dated August 10, 2007:

Do our Christian friends who use these verses to teach that we should not oppose the President or any other political leader really believe that civil magistrates have unlimited authority to do anything they want without opposition? I doubt whether they truly believe that.

For example, what if our President decided to resurrect the old monarchical custom of Jus Primae Noctis (Law of First Night)? That was the old medieval custom when the king claimed the right to sleep with a subject's bride on the first night of their marriage. Would our sincere Christian brethren sheepishly say, "Romans Chapter 13 says we must submit to the government"? I think not. And would any of us respect any man who would submit to such a law?

So, there are limits to authority. A father has authority in his home, but does this give him power to abuse his wife and children? Of course not. An employer has authority on the job, but does this give him power to control the private lives of his employees? No. A pastor has overseer authority in the church, but does this give him power to tell employers in his church how to run their businesses? Of course not. All human authority is limited in nature. No man has unlimited authority over the lives of other men. (Lordship and Sovereignty is the exclusive domain of Jesus Christ.)

By the same token, a civil magistrate has authority in civil matters, but his authority is limited and defined. Observe that Romans Chapter 13 clearly limits the authority of civil government by strictly defining its purpose: "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil . . . For he is the minister of God to thee for good . . . for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Notice that civil government must not be a "terror to good works." It has no power or authority to terrorize good works or good people. God never gave it that authority. **And any government that oversteps that divine boundary has no divine authority or protection.**

Civil government is a "minister of God to thee for good." It is not a minister of God for evil. Civil magistrates have a divine duty to "execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." **They have no authority to execute wrath upon him that doeth good. None. Zilch. Zero.** And anyone who says they do is lying. So, **even in the midst of telling Christians to submit to civil authority, Romans Chapter 13 limits the power and reach of civil authority.**

Did Moses violate God's principle of submission to authority when he killed the Egyptian taskmaster in defense of his fellow Hebrew? Did Elijah violate God's principle of submission to authority when he openly challenged Ahab and Jezebel? Did David violate God's principle of submission to authority when he refused to surrender to Saul's troops? Did Daniel violate God's principle of submission to authority when he disobeyed the king's law to not pray audibly to God? Did the three Hebrew children violate God's principle of submission to authority when they refused to bow to the image of the state? Did John the Baptist violate God's principle of submission to authority when he publicly scolded King Herod for his infidelity? Did Simon Peter and the other Apostles violate God's principle of submission to authority when they refused to stop preaching on the streets of Jerusalem? Did Paul violate God's principle of submission to

authority when he refused to obey those authorities who demanded that he abandon his missionary work? In fact, Paul spent almost as much time in jail as he did out of jail.

Remember that every apostle of Christ (except John) was killed by hostile civil authorities opposed to their endeavors. Christians throughout church history were imprisoned, tortured, or killed by civil authorities of all stripes for refusing to submit to their various laws and prohibitions. Did all of these Christian martyrs violate God's principle of submission to authority?

So, even the great prophets, apostles, and writers of the Bible (including the writer of Romans Chapter 13) understood that **human authority--even civil authority--is limited.**

Plus, Paul makes it clear that our submission to civil authority must be predicated on more than fear of governmental retaliation. Notice, he said, "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake." Meaning, our obedience to civil authority is more than just "because they said so." It is also a matter of conscience. This means we must think and reason for ourselves regarding the justness and rightness of our government's laws. Obedience is not automatic or robotic. It is a result of both rational deliberation and moral approbation.

Therefore, there are times when civil authority may need to be resisted. Either governmental abuse of power or the violation of conscience (or both) could precipitate civil disobedience.

America's "supreme Law" does not rest with any man or any group of men. America's "supreme Law" does not rest with the President, the Congress, or even the Supreme Court. **In America, the U.S. Constitution is the "supreme Law of the Land."** Under our laws, every governing official publicly promises to submit to the Constitution of the United States. Do readers understand the significance of this distinction? I hope so.

THIS MEANS THAT IN AMERICA THE "HIGHER POWERS" ARE NOT THE MEN WHO OCCUPY ELECTED OFFICE, THEY ARE THE TENETS AND PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. Under our laws and form of government, it is the duty of every citizen, including our elected officials, to obey the U.S. Constitution.

Texas is taking this very stand!

The problem in America today is that we have allowed our political leaders to violate their oaths of office and to ignore, and blatantly disobey, the "supreme Law of the Land," the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, if we truly believe Romans Chapter 13, we will insist and demand that our civil magistrates submit to the U.S. Constitution and to God's authority.

To the believer, we are to **be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,**

(but a tyrannical governmental authority is limited and should be refused). This is not the same as a revolt against the government, which is never right. We are to defend ourselves from tyranny without being the aggressor or attacker.

2) to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

Verse 2 shows the attitude of how believers should live, obeying the law of the land (the constitution of the United States), which is in obedience with Romans 13 and Titus 3.

We should be a model citizen under Government authority that operates under Divine Institution.