

Series - We are the Family of God

Under one Authority **Romans 13:1-7**

The universe is one of order. Everything follows the clear “laws of the universe” – God’s plan. We live in a world of order. There are rules that we can bend but not break – example Gravity (we fly because we understand the laws not because we break them. God has set authority for the Family of God as well. Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children, Employees, Employers, Spiritual Leaders, Governmental leaders. Much of the Chaos in the world today is because we rebel against the authority God has set in place for our good.

I. The Why of Authority

A. All authority comes from God

After resurrection Christ said all authority was given to Him **Matthew 28:18**

B. Authority is for our benefit

If we respond correctly to God’s authority

- * You will bring delight to the Lord – **Colossians 3:20**
- * You have a long life – **Ephesians 6:1-3**
- * You will maintain a good conscience – **Romans 13:5**
- * You will lead peaceful, quiet lives – **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
- * Things will be well with you – **Ephesians 6:2-3**
- * You will receive honor from the Lord – **1 Peter 5:6**
- * Your life will be marked by peace – **Psalms 119:165**
- * You will avoid the fear of condemnation – **Romans 13:3-4** (read **Romans 13:1-7**)

C. Rebellion is an offence to God Himself

It is included in the list of sins offensive to God *Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too. Romans 1:29-32*

Its foundation is unbelief

Not believing that God can care for our needs

Not believing that God loves us and is working for our good

Its product is fear

Fear that we will lose control, lose comfort, lose

II. The What of Authority

A. Christ is the ultimate example

His own words

John 12:49 I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. (see also John 14:31)

Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Testimony from others

Hebrews 5:8 Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Philippians 2:8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

B. What does it mean to obey

Two Greek terms

1. idea of position oneself under someone by submitting to their authority

Being under also speaks of the protection of that authority.

2. idea of trusting based on belief

“Obedience involves physical hearing that inspires the listener to believe and in turn this motivates the hearer to act in accordance with the speaker’s desires.” Eerdmans Bible Dictionary

3. Obedience do not depend on the “rightness” but only on the authority

Jesus submitted to Roman authority as did Paul and the Church

He said “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”

C. What if earthly authority contradicts God’s law

We are obligated to obey God and take the consequences

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."

Examples

- Midwives of Egypt let the Hebrew boys live rather than kill them as pharaoh ordered
- The 3 Hebrew children thrown into the fiery furnace

Daniel 3:18b we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

III. The How of Authority

A. God has ordained layers of authority with God as the supreme authority

Governments are to rule with justice *Romans 13*

Churches are to direct with purity *Hebrews 13:17 Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.*

Families are to be ordered as He wills *Ephesians 5:21-6:4,*

Colossians 3:16-25 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

Work relationships *Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22-25, 1 Peter 2:18-21*

B. God uses Authorities to form us into His family marked by His holiness and righteousness

Hebrews 12:5b-11 He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

How are we to respond to authority and to discipline?

All to government, wives to husbands, children to parents, believers to spiritual authorities

1. Remember that everyone is accountable to God

You and those in authority over you

2. Respect authority as we would respect God

Husbands – love your wife as Christ loves the Church

Children – obey your parents because you belong to the Lord

3. Realize that God is treating you as His beloved child

He corrects for He is concerned more with your character than your comfort

He is more concerned with your eternal soul than your temporal body

He is preparing you for an eternity of praise to Him

4. Respond to authority with Prayer

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Why is it so hard for us? It is ultimately about our relationship with God

If He is present and ruling in your heart you can respond correctly to others

If He is not in control in your life – pride and fear and unbelief will reign

Illustration of two parents with boys 8 and 10 – "God is missing, and they think we did it"

Where is God in your life?

Do you desire to control those above you?

Do you fear to trust them?

Is it a spirit of rebellion?

Is it a lack of faith in God?

Is God in control or just an accessory?