

The Umbrellas of God's Delegated Authority

Text - Matthew 28:18-20/Romans 13:1-3

Introduction: We are facing an authority crisis in our nation. "Question authority" has become more than a bumper sticker for hippies; it has become the battle cry of our age. If our society can be defined with one overriding characteristic it has to be rebellion against authority. The moral crisis swallowing our nation is the fruit of the authority crisis. As a result of one generation throwing off the shackles of authority, the next generation must reap the whirlwind of such anarchy.

The twenty-first century was welcomed by a generation of rebels who, believing that true freedom comes from escaping authority, challenged any claims to authority over their lives. They were not taught respect to authority in the home, were not made to obey the authority in the school, were influenced by a rock culture to defy the authority of law and government, and will die without recognizing, in the least regard, the ultimate authority which belongs to God. This is the authority crisis we are facing!

The question of authority is the most fundamental issue of life. The #1 question of the universe is, "**Who's going to be in charge?**" In every arena of life there must be an authority: the state, church, home, school, and the workplace. The absence of authority brings about anarchy: every man becomes his own authority and does what he alone determines is right.

What Is Authority?

Authority is the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions. " Authority gives one the right to impose his will upon others. It places the person possessing authority in a position over others and gives him the final say in all matters pertaining to his area of authority. Simply stated, the one with authority is in charge.

This is the most fundamental principle of order in our society. Someone must have the final say in judicial concerns, legislative matters, economic decisions, etc. No institution - school, home, church, business, or government - can exist or function properly without a duly recognized authority. That authority may be an individual or a group (such as the Congress), but someone must exercise authority.

In regarding authority, the distinction between authority and power must be recognized. Authority and power work together, but they are not the same principle. Authority is the right to command; power is the strength with which to enforce those commands. The only one who has absolute power and authority is God. He alone has the right to demand His will upon all men and the power to enforce that will upon whomsoever He decides.

Where Does Authority Come From?

Direct Authority All primary authority comes from God. He derives His authority from no one; it is His by virtue of Him being the Creator and Supreme Being of the Universe. All authority is God's authority. Take all earthly authority back to its source and you end up at the throne of God. The only authority anyone possesses is given to him by God (Dan. 4:17; 12:1; John 19:10-11).

When you understand this then you will know why the world hates God. Man is a rebel at heart and, in his natural state, resents all restraints and demands on his life. Man's war against God is war against God's authority. God demands to have the final say so all attempts to expunge God from life is an attempt to get away from God's authority. When you get rid of God as the authority you are left to conclude that man (you) is the ultimate authority.

Now, if all authority is God's authority, then all rebellion against authority is rebellion against God. The origin of sin was when Lucifer rebelled against the throne (authority) of God. All sin is ultimately a rebellion against the authority of God. Anytime you rebel against a legitimate authority above you, you play the devil. All sin is a sin of rebellion.

When God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden, He established His authority over man by giving him one command. By forbidding Adam to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil He was setting Himself as the authority over Adam. He created both the tree and the man; thus, it was His right to exercise that authority. When Adam sinned, he sinned against God's authority. He rebelled at the command of God - this is the essence of all sin.

All authority belongs to God because He is the Creator of all things. We saw that the basic principle of the world is rebellion; whereas, the basic principle of

God's children is obedience. We are here to obey God and uphold His authority.

In this lesson we are going to learn a very important truth: We must obey God's delegated authorities in order to be fully obedient to God.

What is ***Delegated Authority***? A delegated authority is someone who represents God's authority. All authority belongs to God, but God has two ways in which He exercises His authority:

Delegated Authority. This means that God designates certain people to represent Him and to exercise His authority.

God not only directs us personally, but He also directs us through His delegated authorities. Some examples of people who are delegated authorities are: parents, school teachers, police officers, governmental officials.

Since a delegated authority is a person who represents God's authority, he must be obeyed. To be disrespectful or disobedient to God's delegated authority is like being disrespectful or disobedient to God Himself.

The Four Basic Structures of Authority

In this world, God has established four basic structures of authority:



The Umbrella of Family Authority



The Umbrella of
Family Authority

Introduction: God's arrangement for the family is that the father be the head of the house under God. The wife is to be subject to her husband, and the children subject to their parents. Notice "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" **Eph. 5:22** "*Children, obey your parents in all things...*" **Col. 3:20**

In the family, God has placed His authority in the parents. Since parents represent God's authority in the home, it is right that they should be obeyed. The Bible says,

"*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*" **Eph. 6:1**

Many times young people would like to change God's Word to suit themselves.

For example:

"Obey your parents... If they are right... If you think they are right... If it does not interfere with what you want to do... If they ask you nicely in a way that satisfies you..."

But the person who wants to please God will not consider these variations. Instead, he will choose to obey his parents because it is right to do so.

The father is the God-appointed head of the family, but he is not to be a dictator. He is to love his wife and children and be an example to them. He is also responsible before God to bring up his children in the ways of the Lord. The Bible says, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.*" **Eph. 5:25**

"*Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" **Eph. 6:4**

God's Seven Purposes for Authority

***Faith is the wisdom to see that God works through the authorities
He has placed over our lives and the decision to trust Him to do it.***

- I. Authority produces power, which produces results.
- II. Authority helps end confusion.
"Who do I have to answer to?"... "Who gets to tell me what to do?"
- III. Authority restrains wickedness with fear and brings protection (15 Danger Signs)
- IV. Authority brings blessings to our lives we could not have otherwise.
- V. Authority brings deliverance we could not have otherwise.
- VI. Authority makes us effective in doing God's work
- VII. The right authority protects us against falling under the control of wrong authority.

15 Danger Signs

1. Outsiders living in your home.
2. Immoral "guests" in your home.
3. Things that can produce addictions
4. Jobs that undermine standards
5. Activities with the appearance of evil
6. Clothing that imitates the world
7. Churches that undermine the family
8. Children who disrespect their mother
9. Guilt that is not cleaned up
10. Friends that produce peer dependence
11. Activities that waste resources
12. Presuppositions contrary to truth
13. Goals that teach taking vs. giving
14. Damage to the family name
15. Distractions that hinder priorities

3 Principles of Authority For Parents

There are some principles that the devil does not want us to **hear** and **heed** because it is his plan to fracture our families, because if he can ruin us at **HOME**, he can have victory over us in any other area of our lives.

G.K. Chesterton said, "*We spend the first half of our life fighting with our parents and the second half fighting with our children.*"

America is a spiritual disaster area. And "*when all else fails, read the directions*", consult the Owner's manual, **Prov. 22:6.**

THE CORRECTION PRINCIPLE – it is so much easier to correct them when they are young—so much easier to steer them when they are young. You take a little creek or stream and you can steer it wherever you want, but it is hard to steer the mighty Mississippi. You take a little twig and bend it as you wish, but it is hard to bend an oak tree. You can correct a child, but when he becomes a man, it will be almost impossible to change him.

Prov. 19:18, "while there is hope". Chasten thy son while there is hope".

Prov. 13:24, "betimes" = it literally means **EARLY**. It means you correct them early. "They don't need correcting, they're little angels". But as their 2 legs get longer, you are going to find out their wings get shorter.

THE COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLE – Did you know that little children have a great ability to learn? Why is this?

They have a great **curiosity factor**. **Why**, Daddy? **Why**, Mommy? **WHY?** Don't put them down for that and don't stop asking so many questions. That is what God built into that child. According to the O.T., when a child would say why are you doing this, you are to tell him. This is the way God set it up. They have a great **memory factor**. It is amazing what the little ones can learn. God has given to them a **humility factor**. God has given to them a **trust factor**. **All** of this is built into those little children. It is a time for correction, for communication. Tomorrow may be too late? **Early is the time!**

THE CONVERSION PRINCIPLE – we ought to pray and see to it that our children are brought to Christ at an early age. I am sick of people playing down childhood conversions like it is wrong to lead a child to Christ. **It is wrong not to lead a child to Christ.** This idea that a child has got to have a Ph.D. in sin to get saved is ridiculous.

Of course, we are not to manipulate a child—or anybody else. We do not **shove** the child or **block** the child. We **guide** the child. And it ought to be perfectly normal and natural that children should come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord if they are raised in a Christian home.

Mark 10:13-15, we sometimes think the little child has to become like an adult, when God says the adult has to become like a little child. And children **could** and **should** be saved at an early age.

Matthew Henry –saved at the age of 11.

Jonathan Edwards – "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*" –saved at age 8.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon – was saved at the age of 12 and said, "*I would have been saved earlier had I had someone to instruct me and guide me.*" He said a child of **5** could as savingly believe as a child of **50**.

Of an entire **board of missionaries**, 90% of them were saved by age 11 and the average age of their conversion was age **8**.

Polycarp was saved at age **9**. He died in the flames for Jesus at age **90**. Sounds to me like there was a childhood conversion that stayed and stuck.

To see our children are saved ought to be the joy of our hearts and to see that they are Spirit-filled to walk and witness for God.

The Umbrella of Government Authority

Romans 13:1 *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

Introduction: Due to the sinful and rebellious nature of men, God established laws and set up Human Government. God gave men the authority to enforce His laws. He did this for our protection and for our good. Civil authorities are God's provision for the restraint of evil in order that we might live "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Tim. 2:2)

School teachers, police officers, local officials, judges, state and federal officials are all God's delegated authorities. Since they represent God's authority, we must obey them.

Christians are to be law-abiding citizens. The student in school honors God when he obeys the rules of the school and shows respect to his teachers. He dishonors God when he does not do this. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to live our lives by the principle of obedience.

The Bible says, "*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man FOR THE LORD'S SAKE...*" 1 Peter 2:13

Our Lord was never a party to any rebellion. He taught people to obey governmental authorities. When the Pharisees asked Jesus whether they should pay taxes to Caesar, the Lord replied,

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Matthew 22:21



The Umbrella of
Government Authority

5 Things Christians Should Do For Their Government

Text: Rom. 13:1-7

Introduction: There are a growing number of Christians who think that believers should not be involved in government and politics. Some are afraid of promoting a social gospel, some have given up hope, some have been intimidated, and some have just accepted the fact that politics are just too dirty to get their attention.

AUTHORITY IS FOR EVERYONE

Roman 13 says, "Let every soul be subject...." This indicates that none of us are exempt to being subject. Who are we supposed to be subject to?

Parental Authority *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*—Ephesians 6:1

Spousal Authority *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*—Eph. 5:22

Workplace Authority *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;*—Ephesians 6:5

Spiritual Authority *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*—Hebrews 13:7, 17

Civil Authority *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*—1 Peter 2:13–15

1. We Should Pay For Government

v. 6-7 *tribute* = income tax/custom = sales tax....Some Christians, even preachers, say, our government is a pagan government, therefore, we do not owe them taxes, they are not of God! Well, what government was in charge when this was written? *The Roman Empire*...not exactly a Godly government! When Jesus was here on earth, He paid His taxes, and so should we! "But, they're unfair" I agree! "And, it's wasted and used unwisely" I agree! ...but do YOU agree with Romans 13? Then pay your taxes!

2. We Should Pray For Government

1 Tim. 2:1-2 *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."*

Pray for revival/leaders/war on terror/God to use our leaders and defeat our enemies! There's plenty to pray for! We need a revival of doing good:

v. 4 Some say, capital punishment is OT, it's not in the NT! Yes it is! *"He beareth not the electric chair in vain/hangman's noose/lethal injection"*...Sometimes, for government to restrain evil, it must take life. Some say, *"it's not a deterrent"*...We don't know if it is or

not...we never carry it out swiftly and consistently! ***One thing for sure: it's a deterrent to that one!***

We need to pray for a revival of the sanctity of life! Supreme Court justices are getting up in years...in the near future, a president may have the chance to reshape it. We need to vote our consciences, not the economy, and we need to pray like there's no tomorrow that that president does what is right. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wants"*

3. We Should Praise Our Government

v. 7 *"honour"*...Despite all our problems, the USA is still the greatest nation on earth. We need a revival of good old-fashioned patriotism!...And we should honour our leaders, and all that are in authority...like police officers and local leaders, even our boss (good or bad...v. 1), for God placed them in authority over us, we should honor our spiritual leaders...like a missionary, who gives away his life, for the souls of others.

4. We Should Participate In Government

Get informed and vote! It is inconceivable that God would ordain government such as He has, and then tell His people to stay out of it! It is our Christian duty to get informed, and vote! Shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to that flag, and then doesn't take action. And, shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to a political party, instead of to *principles*...the Biblical principles upon which this nation was founded!

5. We Should Persuade Our Government

How can I really make a difference? We are a republic...that means that, for the most part, public policy is shaped by public opinion. And there's only 1 way to affect public opinion: and it's not billboards, radio, or TV...it's to get the Word of God into the hearts of people. People have often changed their mind about abortion after they got saved...because they found out what God says! They made a new decision based on new information!

The most patriotic thing we can do is not to set off fireworks, or sing a song, but to witness...to win 'em, wet 'em, and wean 'em for the glory of God! Let's join our hearts together, and build a local church that will stand as a great light to a dark and dying world!

The Umbrella of the Church



The Umbrella of the
Church

Heb. 13:7, 17, 24 - "...them that have the rule over you"

Introduction: God's plan is that Christ be the Head of every church. Under Christ are God-appointed leaders such as elders, pastors, deacons, and teachers. We are to be subject to God's delegated authorities in the church. The Bible says in **Hebrews 13:17** "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*"

Those who are in authority in the church are not to lord it over God's people but rather to serve them and to be examples to them. Concerning elders, the Bible says, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

1 Pet. 5:2-3.. Here are 3 commandments that refer to the pastor and people:

1. "Remember them which have the rule over you" (v. 7).

The pastor is expected to be the spiritual leader of the flock. He is to lead through the Word of God, which is the spiritual food for God's sheep. Believers are to follow the example of their pastor's faith as they point others to Christ.

2. "Follow Them..." -v. 7

3. "Obey them that have the rule over you" (v. 17).

It is a solemn thing to be entrusted with the watch-care of souls. The pastor must give an account of his ministry to God and if his flock has disobeyed the Word, sorrow will be theirs, not his. We must respect pastoral leadership and submit to the Word of God.

4. "Submit To Them..." -v. 17

5. "Salute all them that have the rule over you" (v. 24).

The people should be on "speaking terms" with their pastor. It is a sad when Christians get angry and refuse to talk with their pastor. This is disobedience to the Word of God.

The Umbrella of Business

Colossians 3:22

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:



The Umbrella of
Business

Introduction: Our employer or "boss" represents God's delegated authority at work. We honor God in our work when we do our best for Jesus' sake. God is not pleased when we do our work in a careless and half-hearted way. He wants us to put our heart into our work. The Bible says,

The word "servant" here simply means an employee—one who is employed by another. The Bible tells us that employees are to be subject to their bosses, not only to those who are kind and gentle, but also to those who are hard to get along with. The Bible says,

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

Concerning our jobs, God wants every believer to work as though he were working for the Lord Jesus.

A young man was having trouble holding his job. His attitude was not good and the quality of his work was such that his boss was displeased with him. One day his youth leader asked him this question, "Suppose Jesus Christ Himself was the manager of that store? Would that make a difference in the quality of your work?" He replied, "It sure would! I'd do my best all the time." The youth leader explained, "Do you know that God expects you to consider that you are actually working for the Lord Jesus on your job?" (Bill Gothard)

Colossians 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

The Bible says that bosses have a responsibility too. They are to be considerate of those who work for them, recognizing that they have a Master in heaven. The Bible says in **Ephesians 6:9** And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Job

Proverbs 10:16

The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

INTRODUCTION

I. GET RIGHT WITH GOD

II. REALIZE THAT WORK IS ORDAINED OF GOD

III. BE SURE THAT YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT JOB

IV. KEEP IN MIND THE RIGHT PURPOSES OF WORK

- A. SUPPORT OURSELVES
- B. SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES
- C. SUPPORT OTHERS
- D. SUPPORT GOD'S WORK
- E. SUPPORT OUR WITNESS

V. KEEP IN VIEW THE REWARDS OF WORK WELL DONE

- A. REWARDED WITH A SENSE OF GOD'S PRESENCE
- B. REWARDED WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE
- C. REWARDED ETERNALLY FOR FAITHFULNESS