"The Condemnation of Those Who Despise Authority"

(2 Peter 2:10-12)

3/8/09

Introduction:

What are the Symptoms of those who despise Authority?
In what way does rebellion manifest itself?

I. **Sexual Immorality** (v.10a)
("Flesh…the lust of uncleanness")

II. **Daring Defiance** (v.10b)
("presumptuous")

III. **Arrogant Self-will** (v.10c)
("selfwilled")

IV. **Verbal Blasphemy** (v.10d-11)
("not afraid to speak evil of dignities")

V. **Irrational Animal Behavior** (v.12)
("natural brute beasts")

"The Condemnation of Those Who Despise Authority"

(2 Peter 2:10-12)

3/8/09

Introduction:

Read verse 10.

2 Peter chapter two is describing the coming judgment of God on anyone who teaches that which is false (particularly God's condemnation of religious false teachers – v. 1).

Note: Every time we open our mouth, we are teaching (we are importing information that will either help or hinder the hearer; it will either build up or tear down; it will either bring the hearer into truth and thus closer to God or bring the hearer into error and consequently father from God). "By your words, you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."

"Even denying the Lord that bought them" – what happens when people deny the Lord? When they deny his existence or His right to rule in their lives? What is the reason for such a notion as to deny God?

The motive of evolution

What caused man to think up such a theory?

Basic answer: Sinful man does not want to be accountable to a Creator God.

Fallen man wants to make a way to leave God out of the origin of life, so that he does not have to acknowledge the Creator's authority and glorify Him. Evolution is so readily accepted simply because it gives man the "luxury" of keeping the concept of God out of his life and conscience (Jn. 3:19-20).

If a Creator exists, these are some of the resultant consequences (consequences that a sinful man does not want to acknowledge):

1) I am known by the Creator.
2) I am inferior to the superior Creator.
3) I am responsible to the Creator.
4) I will be judged (held accountable) by the Creator.
5) I should live for the glory and purpose of the Creator.
6) I am not the master of my life.
7) I cannot live any way I please.

See: Romans 1:18-32 -

1) The real reason for evolution - V. 18 - "Men hold (hold down, suppress) the truth in unrighteousness."

2) The inexcusableness of evolution - V. 19-20 - Creation clearly points to a Creator (and His power and authority).

3) The end result of evolution - V. 21-32

a) Empty lives and blind eyes (v. 21)

b) Pride and delusion (v. 22)

c) Idolatry (materialism) (v. 27)

d) Immorality (v. 24-32)

If there is no God, then there are:

(1) No absolutes

(2) No moral standards

(3) No boundaries

(4) No shame or embarrassment for sin

(5) No fear of judgment

In verses In 2 Peter 2:4 – 9, Peter gave three examples of the surety of God's judgment:

1) The angels that sinned (who fell from heaven) (v. 4)
2) The world of Noah's day (which was flooded by a universal deluge) (v. 5)
3) The cities of Sodom Gomorrah (which were destroyed by fire) (v. 6-8)

"Peter's three examples, cited in chronological order, establish that neither rank, strength, nor numbers shield rebellious evil from God's vengeance." (Hiebert, p. 96).

The point: The wicked will not go unpunished; no one gets away with sin. Payday – Someday!

The philosophy pervading the world today is pure humanism (man is the measure of all things).

--The world says "Assert yourself"
--God says "Submit yourself"
--The world says "Do what you want"
--God says "Do what your Lord wants"
--The world says "Follow your heart"
--God says "Obey my will"

God commands submission to authority:

- To God

  James 4:7
  Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- To Government

  1 Peter 2:13
  Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

- To Pastoral Leadership

  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.

- To Husband's Authority

  Colossians 3:18
  Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. (cp. Eph. 5:22)

- To Parents' Authority

  Ephesians 6:2-3
  Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- To Each Other

  1 Peter 5:5
  Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

The spirit of our days displays this attitude: Nobody is going to lord it over me; no one is going to tell me what to do. I will submit to no one."

Rebellion, anti-law, and insubordination are signs that we are living in the very Last Days of this age. It is being pumped into our children via cartoons and the media in general.

Is this spirit in you?

If you want to see how American family culture has rapidly changed over the last 50 years, simply compare the family of "Leave It To Beaver" (1957) with the style of family life on your modern sitcom.

There exists a systematic dismantling of all authority structures in society today. On T.V. for example authorities are:

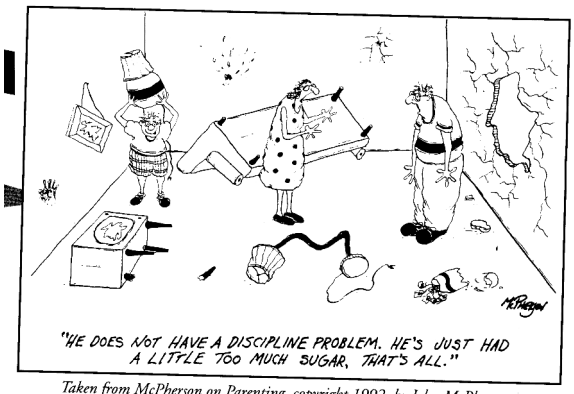
1) Made fun of (the Simpsons)
2) Ridiculed
3) Distrusted

The norm on T.V. is not the stable family ("Little house on the prairie" is a thing of the past); The typical family is not pictured with a husband lovingly leading his wife & children, or a wife respecting her husband or children honoring their parents, but a dysfunctional husband, a wife cheating on her husband and kids sneaking and conniving to get their own way. Most shows involving parents & children depict the parents as inept, (they just don't understand as their children do); In these films the child just has to "follow his/her own heart" and in the end it always turns our right for the child and the parents come around and see that the child was right all along. Every role is twisted in today's movies.

God is a God of <u>order</u>.

Just as the universe, the human body, every detail in creation has a proper <u>order & structure</u>.

So do all relationships have order. There is order in the Trinity (I Cor 11:3);
1Co 11:3 But I would have you know,
that the head of every man is Christ;
and the head of the woman is the man;
and the head of Christ is God.



Taken from McPherson on Parenting, copyright 1992, by John McPherson. Used by permission.

Not a superiority of essence, but a difference in function.

And God created the animal realm & human realm with order.

Even in the Angelic Realm, there is order & rank
(Michael, Gabriel, Seraphim, Cherubim, the Heavenly Host) (even in the demon realm there exists rank & order: *Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places)*

The most beautiful & magnificent of all angels (Lucifer) was dissatisfied with his place under God, and fell by Pride (Isaiah 14:12-15)

Note: Lucifer's 5 "I wills"
Lucifer thought within his heart, "I will exalt myself in regards to:
God's Heaven
God's Angelic Realm
God's Congregation
God's Shekinah Clouds
God's Glory"

Lu 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

1Ti 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

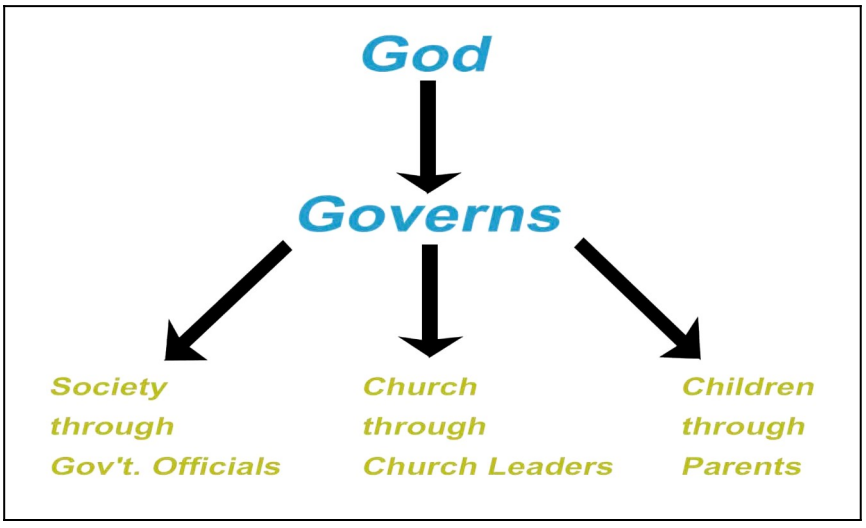
All of life is structured around a "chain of responsibility"

Three basic divinely established institutions to provide structure (order) and safety (protection) to society:

1) The Home (I Cor. 7:2ff; Eph. 5:22-6:4; I Cor.11:3)

2) The Government (Rom. 13:1-f)

3) The Church (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; I Peter 5:1-5)



These institutions involve submission and authority.

"Authority" is a word Rebels hate

Society has programmed the generation we live in to distrust and disrespect authority.

- Due to Misuse (abuse of power)
- Due to Misunderstanding (of God's ways)

V.10
"Despise government" – despise lordship (*kuriotetos*) or authority.

The word "despise" means to "think down upon" (to have a low or not a high opinion of someone).

To have a habitual attitude of "thinking down" or "against" something, with the result that it is ignored (Hiebert, p. 108).

What we have here is a despising of the power and authority of the Lord.

Peter's second epistle is an eschatological letter describing the trouble and characteristics of the Last Days.

v. 10
"But chiefly them" = especially those

The unjust have reservations with the Day of Judgment (v. 9), but especially those unjust people who have the traits (characteristics) of verses 10-22.

What God is about to describe are the characteristics of people who have reservations with the hottest wrath of God.

What are the Symptoms of those who despise Authority?

In what way does rebellion manifest itself?

I. Sexual Immorality (v.10a)
("Flesh…the lust of uncleanness")

"<u>Walk after</u> the flesh"

Those who despise authority "follow a certain course, a course described as 'after the flesh'. . . They are eager followers, not true leaders, following the lead of their 'flesh' rather than the Spirit of God" (Hiebert, p. 107).

"Walk after <u>the flesh</u>" – to conduct one's life with the motivation of satisfying fleshly appetites ("The phrase. . . suggests sodomy" – Green, cited by Rogers, p. 586).

"In the lust of uncleanness" - dirty lusts or lusts which pollute the body and soul (evidently sexual sin is in view, although there are many other lusts which pollute as well).

There is a connection between despising authority and sexual immorality. Where you have one, you will have the other.

America's general rejection of God (and His authority) has opened the flood gates of sexual perversions, which pollute a people and a country (cp. Rom. 1:20f – for the connection between a rejection of God and sexual sin).

II. Daring Defiance (v.10b)
("presumptuous")

"Presumptuous" - to dare in the sense of not dreading or shunning through fear (Vine, p. 144).

Here, it means to have no fear of the authority, so as to shamelessly and irreverently defy the authority (while daring them to do something about it).

The word "presumptuous" here describes the person who is brazen, headstrong, a "dare devil"; a reckless daring that defies God and man (Mayor; Green, cited by Rogers, p. 586).

III. Arrogant Self-will (v.10c)
("selfwilled")

"Self-willed" – *authades* – self-pleasing (*autos* – self; and *hedomai* – to please).

The word denotes one who, dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will (Vine, p. 559).

One whose mind is so made up that he is going to get what he wants, that no one can deter him from it.

Their mind is made up to have their own way, not matter what it may cost them or others.

IV. Verbal Blasphemy (v.10d-11)
("not afraid to speak evil of dignities")

"Dignities" - lit. glorious ones (angelic beings, celestial beings).

They fearlessly deny or mock supernatural entities (this text may apply to glorious dignities in the natural realm; i.e. people of importance).

v. 11
Those who are insubordinate to authority and who speak evil of persons worthy of glory actually go beyond what even angels would do.

Angelic beings, which are superior in strength and ability, would not even bring a slanderous judgment before the Lord.

Angels, who have superior power and might, do not even rail on, defame, or blaspheme people in front of God's throne.

Jude follows Peter's words precisely when he writes:

Jude 1:8-10
Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

V. Irrational Animal Behavior (v.12)
("natural brute beasts")

v. 12
"Natural" – mere creatures of instinct (they sin without even thinking about the consequences; their life is in "auto-pilot," headed for destruction).

"They are comparable to beasts that have no rational capability, operating solely on self-indulgence and unthinking passion. Animals are born as creatures of instinct, meaning that their responses to stimuli are preprogrammed" (MacArthur, p. 99).

"Brute beasts" – irrational animals; unthinking or unreasoning animals.

These are people who blaspheme realities that they cannot disprove; they in ignorance speak evil of supernatural realities that they don't know exist.

These ignorant animals will captured and destroyed by their own rottenness; their own moral decay will devastate them.

Their own sin will entrap them and destroy them.

Conclusion:

An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of <u>oversight</u>.

Authority means: "The right to rule; the power to act, decide, command, and judge…It is the right to set policy" (Fugate)

Note: such authority is not without controls or limit. Every authority is ultimately under God's authority

Psalm 47:2
For the Lord most high *is* terrible; *he is* a great King over all the earth.

Psalm 83:18
That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* Jehovah, *art* the most high over all the earth.

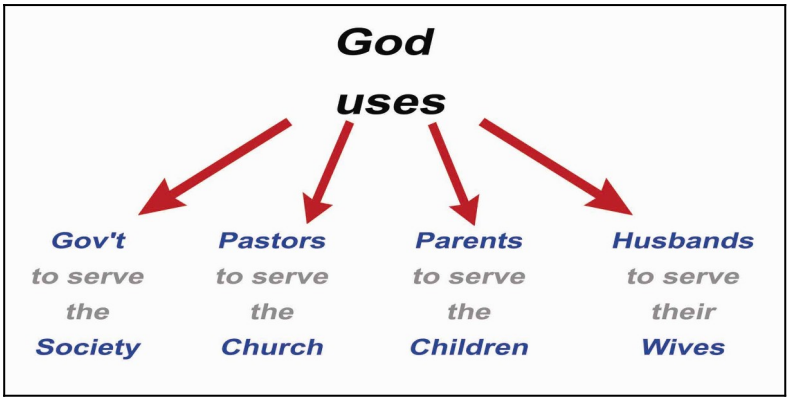
Psalm 115:3
But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

The position of authority is ultimately given by <u>God</u>. (Romans 13:1)

The word translated “ordained” means to put into place; to appoint; to institute.

Authorities are God’s TOOLS to get His job done; They are mediators in a sense.

This position of authority is one of <u>service</u> (an "authority" is a servant) (Rom. 13:4) (For their well being)



This position of authority is to provide <u>leadership</u>, <u>training</u>, and/or <u>protection</u> for the well being of the one(s) served.

Without Authority you have NO:

1) Order (no structure; no chain of command)
2) Direction (each does what is right in his/her own eyes)
3) Protection (each is out for their own survival)

The one who holds such a position of authority is <u>responsible</u> to God and will answer to God. (cp. Heb. 13:17)

Whether that authority is a guardian, foster parent, adopted parents, or step parents.

The one who is expected to submit to the authority will also be <u>accountable</u> to God for how he/she responded to the authority.

Note: It is sometimes necessary for authorities to utilize force to restrain rebellion against authority and to protect those you are responsible for. *(Examples: Gov’t. may use handcuffs, & prisons; A Biblical Church which seeks holiness in the body of believers may have to exercise church discipline; A parent may have to chastise the children)*

*** All of God's children have a responsibility to respect authority**

There are times when it is right to break the law.

When is it okay?

*When man's law conflicts with God's law. [when government imposes a law that will violate a Biblical conviction]

Three Biblical examples of when Christians can disobey government:

1. When it interferes with your prayer life (Dan. 6)
2. When it interferes with your worship (Dan. 3)
3. When it interferes with your witnessing (Acts 4:19-20)

"We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)
Examples of situations when it is right to disobey the law:

- When the law forbids evangelism
- church attendance
- Bible reading and prayer
- Child discipline

None of us will have a right submissive heart to authority unless we first submit to God's authority in our lives.

Does God have the right to tell me what to do?

Yes, because He made you and (if you are a Christian),
He redeemed you.

The Lord Has OWNERSHIP and RIGHTS to your entire Life
(I Cor. 6:19b-20)

V. 19b

You can't say, "It's my life, my body, and I will live it anyway I want."

Many don't come to Christ because they don't want to give up ownership rights.

"Ye are not your own" - If you are saved, you don't own yourself. You don't belong to yourself. You belong to the One who made you and redeemed you (ILLUS: The "Little Red Boat" story)

V. 20

"Ye are bought" - bought at the market place (as a slave in the days of ancient Rome).

"Ye are bought with a price" - Christ's blood (Acts 20:18; Heb. 9:12; I Peter 1:18; Rev. 5:9).

"Therefore" - Drawing a conclusion.

Since God lives in us and owns us, we are obligated to live for His glory (I Cor. 10:31) (i.e. that God would be well thought of by how you live).

If you love the Lord, you will do that which pleases Him.

In the last days, "men will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

We must conduct our lives in a way that pleases God. Are you more interested in God's pleasure than your own?

"To Glorify God" is the goal of the way we live.

"Body. . . spirit" - It is not just our body or spirit, but both that belong to God.

You cannot make a dichotomy of your life. He gets all of us!

It all starts at full surrender to God
Romans 12:1

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

The Bottom Line is this: It takes FAITH to submit to Authority. Faith that God will work the results out for your good and for His glory.