Respect for AUTHORITY

(Selected Scriptures)
1/22/05

Introduction: God is a God of order. Just as the universe, the human body, every detail in creation has a proper order & structure. So do all relationships have order. There is even order in the Trinity (I Cor 11:3)

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

Today, we will examine six spheres of respect:

Respect for Authority applies to...

I. Citizens toward Governmental Officers

(Respect civil authority)
Romans 13:1-2
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. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Respect for Authority applies to...

II. Youth toward their Elders

(Respect "gray haired" authority)
Leviticus 19:32
Thou shalt rise up before the hoary (gray) head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord. (Compare: Lam. 5:12; I Tim.5:1; I Pet. 5:5)

Respect for Authority applies to...

III. Children toward their Parents

(Respect parental 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.

Respect for Authority applies to...

IV. Wives toward their Husbands

(Respect the husband's authority)
Ephesians 5:33
Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Respect for Authority applies to...

V. Church Members toward their Pastors

(Respect pastoral authority)
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.

Respect for Authority applies to...

VI. Everyone toward God

(Respect Divine Authority)
Revelation 4:11
Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Respect for AUTHORITY

(Selected Scriptures)
1/15/05

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

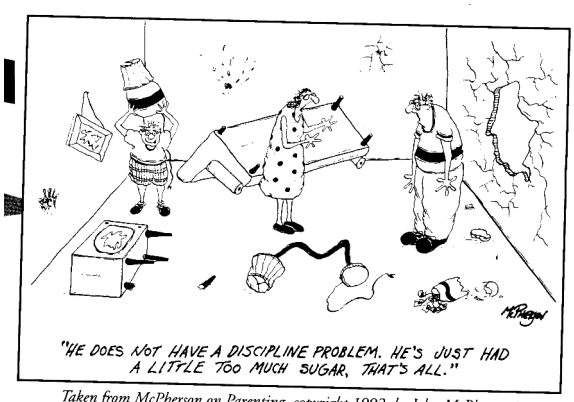
1) Made fun of (the Simpsons)
2) Ridiculed
3) Distrusted

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.



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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, Cherabim, 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"

See: Matthew 8:5-10

V. 5

"A centurion" -an officer in the Roman army who commanded 100 men (a "century" is 100 years).

This man would have been a Gentile. (Matthew now shows that Jesus not only healed the Jews but also the Gentiles)

V. 6

"My servant" -note the compassion of this centurion. Most centurions couldn't care less for their servants; when one becomes useless, they would simply replace him with another one.

Faith always produces love! (Gal. 5:6)

"Palsy, grievously tormented" - the servant was a paralytic who could not move a muscle, but was trapped on a bed suffering great agony and pain.

V. 8

"I am not worthy" -a statement of humility which recognized the great importance of Jesus Christ (cp. John the Baptist said the same thing - Jn. 1:27; Mk. 1:7)

By faith, this man recognized something about Jesus which demanded respect (no doubt he recognized Christ's impeccable holiness and incredible power).

For a high-ranking Roman to say this to a Jew is incredible!

"Speak the word only" -This man recognized the power and authority of Christ's word.

He also recognized that Jesus was not limited by distance. Jesus did not have to be physically present to work!

Though Jesus ascended to Heaven and is seated at the Father's right hand, His arm is not short that He cannot work right here in Corona, NY! (Is. 59:1)

"My servant shall be healed" - Note; Faith does not doubt. Faith recognizes that all God has to do is "say the word" and the thing (whatever it is) will certainly be done.

V. 9

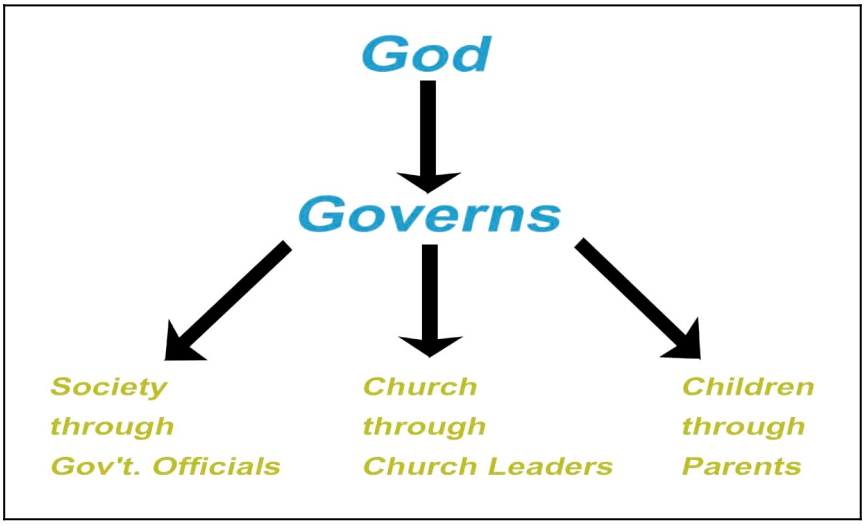
The centurion is saying: "Even I, who am a lesser officer, can give orders and they are carried out. If one who has limited authority can give orders and see them fulfilled, then certain Christ, who has total authority, can!

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)

An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of oversight.

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.

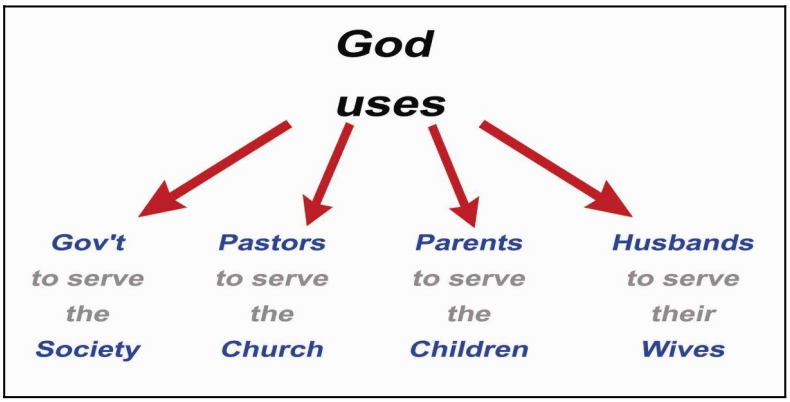
Psalm 115:3
But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

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.

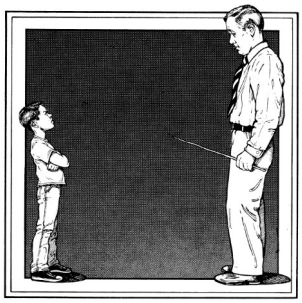
Without Authority you have NO:

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)*

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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. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:1-7

What would society be like without laws?

Have you ever imagined what life would be like in NYC if there were no laws?

The existence of law is a clear testimony to one fact: "Man is depraved."

The humanistic teachers of today can call man "good" all they want; however, all the evidence shows just the opposite! (Rom. 3:10, 23).

Law would not be needed if there were no such thing as <u>sin</u>.

If man were flawlessly perfect (as originally created) there would exist no need for law.

However, because man is (due to fallen nature) rebellious, we need laws.

Because man is selfish (often at the expense of others), we need laws.

Because man is greedy, we need laws against stealing.

Because man is perverted, we need laws against rape and incest.

Because man lies, we need laws against fraud.

Because man is vengeful and cruel, we need laws against murder, attempted murder, and physical abuse.

"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions" (Gal. 3:19)

I Tim. 1:9-10 - "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be nay other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20) (in a lawful society, man is made aware of hiss infulness and need for salvation).

"The law entered that the offense might abound"
(Rom. 5:20, cp. 7:7).

V. 1

"Every soul" = every living being. The obligation to obey government applies to all people. No one excluded. [unless you are dead; hense, the word "soul" refers to living.]

"Be subject" = to place yourself under; to take your place in rank; to submit to the authority over you.

"Higher powers" = governing authorities.

After commanding all men to submit to the law, God gives four reason why we should [NOTE: The word "for" (meaning "because") - v. 1, 3, 5, 6]

Each of the four reasons simply can be stated in one word: We ought to submit to the law because of:

1) "God" (v. 1-2)
2) "Wrath" (v. 3-4)
3) "Conscience" (v. 5)
and 4) "Dues" (debt or obligation - v. 6-7)

V. 1

"For there is no power but of God" - The word "for" gives us a very good reason to obey the "higher powers" (governing authorities).

The reason is, God is the originator or establisher of all true, bonified authorities. EX:

1) The home - the husband (I Cor. 11:3)
2) The church - the pastor (Heb. 13:7, 17)
3) The society - government officials

"The powers that be" = the authorities that presently exist.

"Are ordained of God" = lit. have been placed by God (perfect tense)

It is God who established the principle of government ("authority") in the past.

Contrary to the humanists of today, our law system did not originate over a "millions of years" evolutionary process. But God established law.

A detailed system of law existed even before the Mosaic Law, as evidenced by the archaeological finding of "hammurabi's Code of Laws." Hammurabi, who reigned from 1728 - 1686 B.C. (at least 3 centuries [300 years] before the Law was given to Moses) wrote down many laws strikingly similar to the Law of Moses.

It is important to note that:

1) God ordained (appointed) the fact of government, not necessarily the forms of government that exist today.

   EX: of inferior forms of government:

   --Communism - A forced redistribution of wealth (taking it from those who earned it and giving it to those who did not). No one owns private property.

   --Totalitarianism - Dictatorship (EX: Hitler); the state has total control over everything in a society.

2) God instituted the principle of law and justice, not necessarily the specific laws that a given government might legislate.

   EX: of inferior laws:

   --Legalized abortion (freedom to murder)

   --No Bible reading in public schools (viewed as unconstitutional)

   --Murderers gaining freedom (EX: Charles Manson getting weekend passes)

   --Compulsory education (the education of children is the responsibility of the parents, not the state)

   --Social Security (government becoming a provider of goods and services [seeds of Socialism])

   --Certain "Anti-discrimination" laws - forcing an employer to hire homosexuals, etc.

Despite the growing inadequacies in our crumbling government, praise God some element of justice remains.

Bad government is better than no government.

If there were no government authority, there would be anarchy and lawless, wild, uncontrollable, barbaric behavior.

Society would be like a roller coaster off its tracks, like a river over its banks, or like nuclear waste outside of its container.

There must be law and order, restraints, enforced boundaries.

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

The reason for separation of church and state is:

1. To keep the church from becoming political, and the state (government) from becoming a religion (EX: the corruption of a "state-church")

2. To safeguard the state from telling the church who or how to worship. The state is never to impose (force) a belief or practice on the church.

LAWS THAT ARE OFTEN VIOLATED, EVEN BY CHRISTIANS:

- **Immigration**
- **Marriage Laws**
- **Traffic Laws (Speeding/stop signs/red lights/no seat belts)**
- **Not paying Fines**
- **Tax evasion**
- **Cheating on income tax**
- **Arms (illegal possession of guns)**
- **Drugs**
- **Alcohol sales to minors**
- **Renting out illegal apartments**
  - **Welfare Laws abused**
  - **Ecological abuse (littering; graffiti defacing public property)**
- **Vehicle Laws (No Registration; inspection; insurance etc.)**
- **Copyright infringement**

Christians should never have to lie, cheat, or steal.
Have a clean conscience toward God & men

V. 7

"Render (pay back) therefore to all their dues (that which is owed).

"Tribute" = tax (EX: IRS, state and federal taxes)

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's . . ."
(Mt. 22:21; Lk. 20:22-25)

"Custom" = toll (EX: NYC bridges)

"Fear" = reference (a healthy fear of the law is good)

"My son, fear thou the LORD and the king" (Prov. 24:21)

"Honor" = respect (to treat with value)

Don't ever call police "pigs"

Don't ever belittle your mayor, governor or president (if you don't respect them for their character, at least respect their position).

Respect for Authority applies to...

II. Youth toward their Elders

(Respect "gray haired" authority)

Leviticus 19:32

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary (gray) head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord. (Compare: Lam. 5:12; I Tim.5:1; I Pet. 5:5)

The statement "Respect your elders" has Biblical Support.

Note: The Bible teaches we ought to respect the aged:
(Lev.19:32; Job.12:12)

Leviticus 19:32

Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I *am* the LORD.

Job 12:12

With the ancient *is* wisdom; and in length of days understanding.

Never refer to your parents as "my old man" or "my old lady"
Children ought to address their elders with respect:
"Yes Sir" or "No Mam" "Mr. _____" or "Mrs._____"

In a context describing Jeremiah's weeping over the judgment of God on the people of Judah, as He would use Babylon as His tool to judge Israel, Jeremiah said:

Lament. 5:12

Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

1 Tim. 5:1

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

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.

Respect for your elders, would apply to your teachers (who in reality have a delegated role functioning in a sense as a substitute for the parent for the purpose of educating you).

Respect for your elders would apply to your Sunday School Teacher, Junior Church worker, Bible Institute Teacher etc.

Respect for your elders would apply to guardians (someone responsible for you)

Respect for Authority applies to...

III. Children toward their Parents

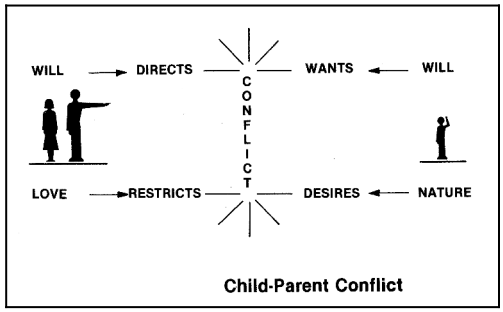
(Respect parental authority)

Ephesians. 6:2-3

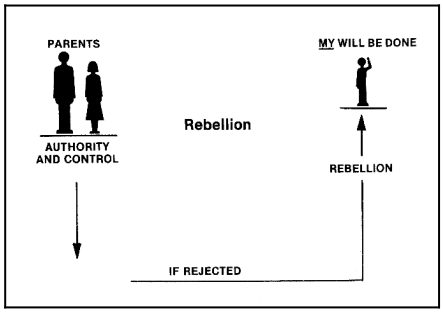
Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

One mark of the last days will be a disregard for authority

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,



Child-Parent Conflict



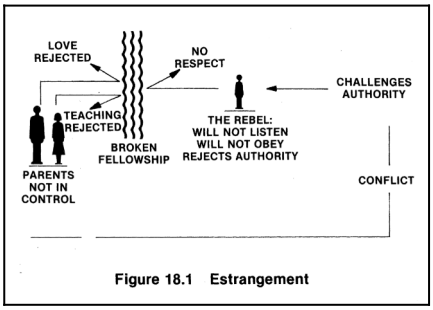


Figure 18.1 Estrangement

* Colossians 3:20 says:

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Such obedience is to be:

1. **Submissive** -

   "Obey" = hupokouo" - lit. to listen with a submissive heart. Hence, to hear what your parents say and do it.

   (Attitude is just as important as action)

2. **Continual** (present imperative)

   Young men, as long as you are under their roof, you are obligated to obey them; young ladies, as long as you are under your parents' authority (until you get married), you are obligated to obey them.

3. **Respectful** - *"your parents"*

   Respect their God-given position over you. Even if you are bigger than them, smarter than them or stronger than them, you are to obey them because they are your parents.

4. **Total** - *"in all things"* (KJV)

   Obedience is not to be partial, but total (God does not qualify the obedience). However, the only exception is if your parents ask you to sin (to directly violate a Scriptural principle - cp. Acts 4:19-20, 5:29).

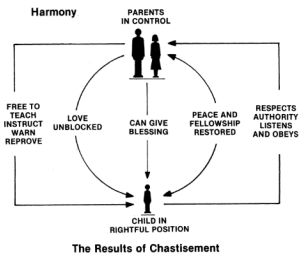
NOTE: God did not say "obey for this is popular" (II Tim. 3:2) or "for this is easy" (indeed it is often difficult) or "for they are worthy" (many are not).

Rather, He said, *"for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."* The reason for obedience is simple. It pleases God. It is right! (Eph. 6:1)

God commends the obedient, and condemns the disobedient. To be under the displeasure of God is a dreadful predicament.

Parents: Do you want your children to please God? (and thereby be under His blessing?). Then expect nothing less than complete obedience from them. Your motive in expecting obedience should not be your own peace but their well-being.

3 blessings that come to those who submit to authority (outline by Bill Gothard):



The Results of Chastisement

1. **You grow in wisdom and character**
   (See: the example of Jesus as a 12-year old boy –
   See: Luke 2:49-52).

2. **You gain protection from destructive temptations**

   "The essence of submission is not 'getting under the domination of authority,' but rather 'getting under the protection of authority.' Authority is like an 'umbrella of protection'."
   (Gothard, Basic Seminar Textbook, p. 20)

3. **You receive clear direction for life decisions**

   How does God speak to us? Obviously through His Word the Bible. However, in the details of life, how does He direct us?

   *"One of the most basic aspects of faith is to realize how God gets His directions to us through those He has placed over us. . . Our faith multiplies as we see how God speaks to us through those He has placed over us." (Gothard, p. 20)

Ephesians 6:2-3

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

The word "honour" means to treat with value; to view with esteem; to consider them important.

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

a. Such an attitude results in a <u>top quality</u> life - *"well with thee . . ."* (v. 3a)

Paul is quoting one of the 10 commandments (Ex. 20:12). This is the only one of the 10 that deals with the family. Why only one! Because if this command was kept, a child would learn the most important lesson of his life -respect for authority.

From this would flow respect for others, for leaders, and most of all for God!

"Well with thee" - they will stay out of things that shorten life and that take the real fun out of life!

2. Such an attitude results in a <u>long quantity</u> of life - *"live long . . ."* (v. 3b)

"This does not mean that everyone who died young dishonored his parents. Paul is stating a principle: When children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives" (Wiersbe, p. 152).

Even if they are not believers, they are your parents, and you owe them love and respect.



Respect for parents is so serious that God told Moses:

*"He who **<u>strikes</u> (physical disrespect)** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death";*

*and "He who **<u>curses</u> (verbal disrespect)** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death"*
(Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9; Deut.21:18-21; 27:16; Proverbs 30:11-<u>17</u>).

Proverbs 20:20 - *"Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness"*
(ie. his life will be snuffed out)

Respect for Authority applies to...

IV. Wives toward their Husbands

(Respect the husband's authority)

Ephesians 5:33

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

1. SUBMISSION IS AN OBLIGATION YOU CAN'T IGNORE

(Submission requires an obedient disposition)

"Wives" is not qualified. Hence, this truth applies to every Christian wife regardless of her education, intelligence, spiritual maturity, giftedness, age, experience, etc. (MacArthur, Ephes. p. 280).

"Submit" = (hypotasso) - a military term, meaning "to rank under", to take your place. Literally, the word means: "to put under" (Eph. 1:22 - "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

It means to subject yourself under the authority of someone else. (EX. Luke 2:51 - "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.")

It also has the idea of "obey"-- [I Cor. 14:34 - "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." Tit. 2:5 - "To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."]—

--although the specific word for obey is (hupakouo) meaning to "submissively listen."

Contrary to public opinion, submission and headship are part of the order that God built into the world. It reflects the nature of God in the trinity (cp. I Cor. 11:3).

In the military, in the NFL, and at your job there are leaders and there are followers, or you have chaos!

Submission is not an option. For wives to submit is just as much as a command as the 10 Commandments, or the command to love God and your neighbor. It is just as much a command as husbands are to love their wives (v. 25) and children to obey their parents (6:1), and father are to train their children (6:4).

You can't say, "This command was only for Paul's day." or "We are living in a New Age." Today, if the women's libbers could re-write Scripture, it would read, "Husbands, submit to your own wives, as to the devil."

Submission was a God-ordained principle since creation.

You can't say, "My husband does not deserve it." or "I won't because he is not doing his role." There are no conditions!

Wives are to submit even when their husbands are unbelievers ("disobedient to the word") (I Pet. 3:1).

If you are unsaved, I don't expect you to obey this command. (You must submit to the Lord first) And you don't have the power to obey it as God intends unless you yield to the Spirit (v. 18).

You need to say: "I am going to submit to my husbands because it's right! Not because it's easy, convenient, or because he deserves it. Doing right is not always easy, fun, popular, etc. But it always brings God's blessings. You will never be happy until you fulfill the purpose for which you were made.

2. SUBMISSION IS AN ACT OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL (V. 22B)
(Submission requires a voluntary decision)

God says, "Submit yourselves" (middle voice).

He does not say, "Husbands, make your wives submit."
Nor does God automatically, force you to submit.

When you yield to the Holy Spirit, you will choose to submit.

I often wonder: wouldn't it be a whole lot better if God made us do right. I believe, however, that when we choose to do right, this brings a smile to God's face and pleases Him.

And your choice to submit will really show your husband that you love him and respect him.

3. SUBMISSION IS A DEVOTION TO ONE MAN (V. 22C)
(Submission requires a personal devotion)

"Own" = "idios", meaning: one's own, belonging to one's self.`

Submission is to be based on a close, loving, tender, and exclusive relationship.

Your own husband - shows the intimacy (closeness) that they have with each other. They each possess the other.

"Submit yourselves to your own husbands . . ." You are to devote yourself to submitting to only one man - your husband.

ILLUS: how we are only to submit to one God - the true God.

He does not say: "Submit to your boyfriend (although a submissive spirit should be in this relationship also). Many ladies submit until they get what they want!--their own private property (their husbands) -- then they stop submitting. This is wicked!

He does not say, "Submit to your mom and dad's decisions (you have "left" and now "cleft" to a new authority [Gen. 2:24]).

He does not say, "Submit to your boss" (although you should unless he would require something of you that your husband does not want you to do)

It is sad to see how submissive some ladies are to their boss at work, and the unsubmissive attitude they then show at home. ILLUS: A doctor at the clinic gave some instructions to a nurse, who nodded and replied, "OK, you're the boss." Then she laughed and said, "I don't even say that to my husband."

You show that you are personally devoted to your husband when you submit.

Aren't you glad he is "your own"?

Because he is, you are only to submit to him. By submitting to him, you are submitting to God!

4. SUBMISSION IS A RESPECT FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S POSITION (V. 22D-23; V. 33)

(Submission requires a respectful disposition)

"As to the Lord" - you are to submit to your husband in the same way as you submit to the Lord.

How do you submit to the Lord? maybe you don't and this is your problem. A woman who won't submit to her husband also won't submit to Christ and vice-versa.

"As to the Lord" Turn to cp. I Pet. 3:1-6.

v. 1 - Holy lifestyle
v. 2 - Pure morals and "fear" (reverence)
v. 3 - Internal beauty (meek and quiet spirit)
v. 4-5 - Submissive obedience

The reason why you are to submit is because of the respect you are to have for your husband's position. he is your head.

ILLUS: of the respect we give people because of their position, not necessarily because of their personal character (teachers, law enforcement officers, elders, etc.).

Any animal (creature) with more than one head is a monster!

You can't both be head and expect to have harmony, unity, peace, etc. in your home.

Christ is head of Church (I Cor. 11:3; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23).

The head gives direction and the body responds. A physical body that does not respond to the head is crippled, paralyzed, or spastic. Likewise, a wife who does not properly respond to the direction of her husband manifests a serious spiritual disfunction (MacArthur, p. 288).

NOTE men: The key to a Church body is Christ, and the key to the home is the husband. As the husband (father) goes, so goes the home. Men, we have an awesome responsibility.

5. SUBMISSION IS NOT A "PICK AND CHOOSE" MATTER (V. 24)
(Submission requires an impartial dedication)

As believers (in the Church - Christ's Body), we don't decide which of His commands we will obey. We don't have any choice in this area. We take our place under Christ's authority in everything.

The phrase "as to the Lord" (v. 22) shows that you are not to submit if he asks you to do something unbiblical or against the Lord. Just as the Lord would never ask you to do something immoral or wrong, neither should your husband. If he does, we "obey God rather than man."

EX. Daniel obeyed the government until it conflicted with Biblical conviction.

Col. 3:18 - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord."

"Fitting" = that standard which the Lord accepts.

Never submit and obey something that is unbiblical (immoral).

CONCLU: Today, our minds are being bombarded with humanistic philosophy which is trying to remove all distinctions of authority in the government, family, school, and even the Church. People want independence from every external law and authority!

Why? Because they love their sin (darkness rather than light).

Each wants to do his/her own will.

Respect for Authority applies to...

V. Church Members toward their Pastors

(Respect pastoral authority)

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.

(Honor your church's authorities with humble obedience and submission)

Now the writer of Hebrews returns to where he began in verse 7, showing the church members responsibility toward their pastors.

Honor them for their work's sake (I Thes. 5:12-13).

"Obey" - (from *peitho*) - obedience as a result of faith or an inward persuasion; not the more common term –*hupakuou*—obedience as a result of listening (Vine, p. 796).

What God is saying here is this: Trust your pastor and then respond in obedience to truth he imparts and the direction he gives.

There exists much skepticism today regarding the clergy (and much distrust is not without warrant). God, however, expects His people to allow pastoral leadership to lead, and the people to respond with trust to such leadership.

"Rule" - lead (as in verses 7 and 24)

Excursus -

The congregation is not to rule (lead) the pastors, but rather the pastors are to rule (lead) the congregation (cp. I Thes. 5:12).

The leadership proposes the direction the church should go, and the church in urn voluntarily agrees to the decision. If they appeal a point made by the leaders, the leaders should review the point and if they agree, they may change their original decision. But the final decision (as in the home) should rest with the leadership.

[NOTE: When appeals are made (as at church business meetings), they should be made according to the order described in I Cor. 14:33-40.]

A dual accountability exists between the leadership and the laity. The laity is responsible to the leadership and the leadership is responsible to the laity (cp. I Tim. 5:19-20).

If the pastor has no accountability to congregation and can lead unchecked, what you have is a cult. However, (the opposite extreme) if the congregation is not accountable to the leadership and everyone does what they want, what you have is chaos (anarchy).

Pastors are not puppets responding to all of the strings pulled by the members. However, any wise and good pastor will seriously consider the validity of suggestions made by the congregation.

"Submit" - *(hueiko* - lit. *upo* = under; *eiko* = to yield) To give in o or yield (the opposite of stubborn rebellion).

This word is not the more common word *"hupotasso"* - to rank under, a positional rank under an authority.

What God is referring to here is a spirit or attitude which gives way to an authority rather than an attitude which contests or challenges or defies the authority.

"Watch" - *agrupneo* - from *agreuo* = to chase; *hupnos* = sleep; hence, to chase after sleep; to be without sleep*;* to be sleepless (Reinecker, p. 720; Vine, p. 1213).

The word metaphorically means to stay spiritual awake and alert so as to keep watch over the spiritual needs of the flock.

Not only does a pastor literally forfeit leisure or sleep so as to stay up late at night for teaching, discipling, visiting and studying; but he also must keep his eyes wide open to the attacks of Satan toward God's sheep.

"Quite frankly, it is much easier to "win souls" than it is to "watch for souls" (see Ezek. 3:16-21)" (Wiersbe, p. 151).

"They. . . must give an account" - All pastors because of their responsibility for tending to God's flock, will one day be held accountable to God for the type of job they did.

It's an awesome matter to be a pastor! We will receive the *"greater condemnation*" - James 3:1.

Note: At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be held accountable not for how the sheep turned out per se, but rather how we did our job of watching over them. However, it is no joy to a pastor to have rebellious, unteachable, "untendable" sheep. It's a grief, a burdensome, groaning experience.

"That is unprofitable for you" - Not only will the under-shepherd answer to God for how he watches over the sheep, but the sheep will answer for how they responded and respected the undershepherd.

Thee is NO benefit to being a stubborn sheep. There is ZERO advantage to being rebellious toward your pastor. It is harmful to you. Much of the stability of the flock is determined by their submission to the shepherd! If you go astray, I will grieve; but you will face the consequences!

"A person who never brings joy will never have joy" (MacArthur, p. 448).

Respect for Authority applies to...

VI. Everyone toward God

(Respect Divine Authority)

Revelation 4:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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 <u>is your reasonable service."</u>

Our complete sacrifice is very logical for two reasons:

1. Full Surrender is the logical response to God's ownership of my life.

In light of the mercies of God, the most reasonable response of the believer would be total devotion.

Poem: "After all He's done for me..."

If you are saved, God is not asking you to give Him anything that is not His already (our spirit and our body is God's already - I Cor. 6:19, 20).

ILLUS: It would be foolish for you to buy a car and not use it. God bought you and now desires to use you. It would be wrong for the one from whom you bought it to demand it back after the price was paid. Christ paid the price to buy you. If He has bought you, what right do you have to selfishly reserve the rights to your life?

2. Full Surrender is the logical key to the abundant life

The Lord Jesus did not give you eternal life so that life would be a drag (dull and boring). Rather, He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly (Jn. 10:10).

The most <u>intelligent</u> decision in the world is to dedicate your life to Christ, when you realize the rewards of such dedication.

The most irrational, <u>foolish</u> decision would be to not surrender all.

Our amount of joy is determined by the degree to which we surrender to God.

Someone who surrenders all (has nothing held back) lives the most abundant life.

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.