Choosing to Respect AUTHORITY

(Colossians 3:20 & Selected Scripture)
Faith Baptist Church, Lebanon, PA - Teen Retreat - August, 2017

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

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

See: Matthew 8:5-10
Three basic divinely established institutions to provide structure (order) and safety (protection) to society:

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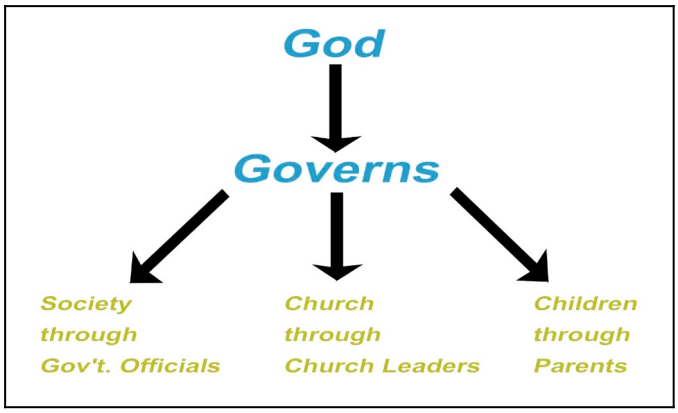

1. **An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of <u>oversight</u>.**

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

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

4. **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)

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

6. **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.**

Respect for parents is so serious that God told Moses:
*"He who **strikes** **(physical disrespect)** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death"; and "He who **curses** **(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 30:11-17).

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

Such obedience is to be:

1. **Submissive -**

2. **Continual** (present imperative)

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

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

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

1. **You grow in wisdom and character**
   (See: the example of Jesus as a 12-year old boy –
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2. **You gain protection from destructive temptations**

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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.

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

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

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

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)

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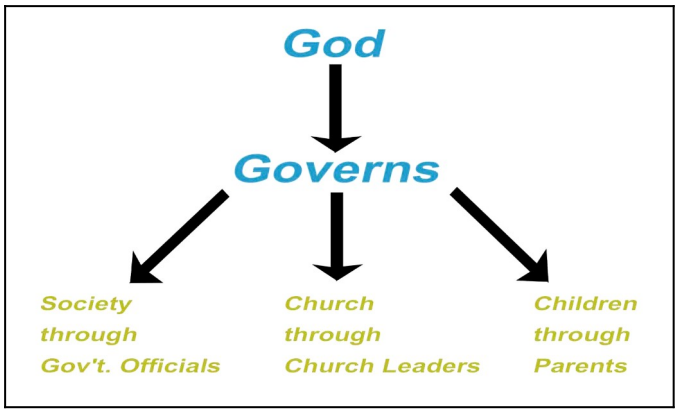

1. **An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of _____.**

2. **The position of authority is ultimately given by _____. (Romans 13:1)**

3. **This position of authority is one of _____ (an "authority" is a servant)** (Rom. 13:4) (For their well being)

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

   Without Authority you have NO:
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   2) _____ (each does what is right in his/her own eyes)
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5. **The one who holds such a position of authority is <u>responsible</u> to God and will answer to God.** (cp. Heb. 13:17)

6. **The one who is expected to submit to the authority will also be _____ to God for how he/she responded to the authority.**

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1. _____ -
2. _____(present imperative)
3. _____- *"your parents"*
4. _____ - *"in all things"* (KJV)

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

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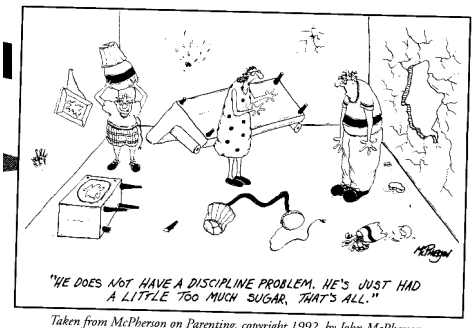

Taken from McPherson on Parenting, copyright 1992, by John McPherson. Used by permission.

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 11:1);

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

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 <u>Gentile</u>. (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 <u>shall</u> 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) <u>will</u> 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:

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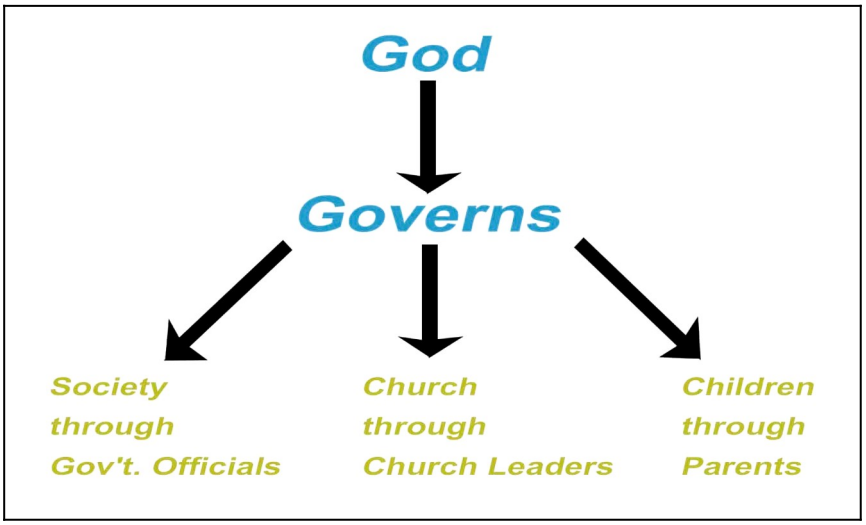


These institutions involve submission and authority.

"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 <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.

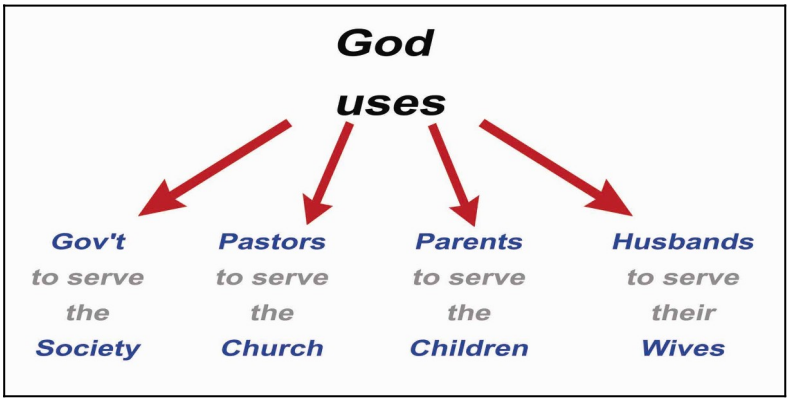
Psalm 115:3
But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

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.

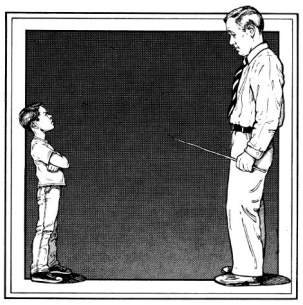
Without Authority you have NO:

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.

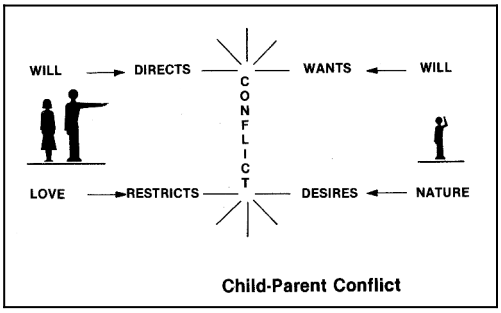
The one who is expected to submit to the authority will also be <u>accountable</u> to God for how he/she responded to the authority.



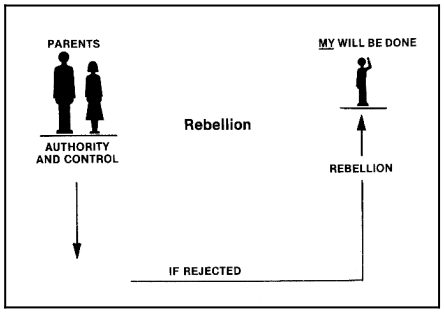
Note: It is sometimes necessary for authorities to utilize force to restrain rebellion against authority and to protect those you are responsible for. *(Examples: Gov't. may use handcuffs, & prisons; A Biblical Church which seeks holiness in the body of believers may have to exercise church discipline;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

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";*



Child-Parent Conflict



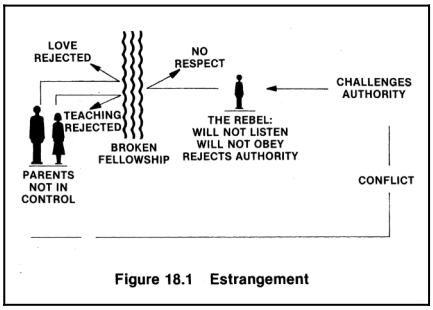


Figure 18.1 Estrangement

*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)



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, <u>disobedient to parents</u>, unthankful, unholy,

* 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).

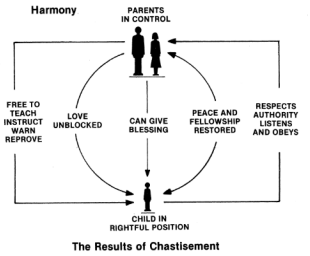
NOTE: God did not say "obey for this is popular" (II Tim. 3:2) or "for this is easy" (indeed it is often difficult) or "for they are worthy" (many are not).

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

2. **You <u>gain protection</u> from destructive temptations**

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

3. **You receive <u>clear direction</u> 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 <u>God gets His directions to us through those He has placed over us</u>. . . 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.

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).

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._____“

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

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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 <u>OWNERSHIP</u> and <u>RIGHTS</u> 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 <u>price</u>" - 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 <u>glory</u> (I Cor. 10:31) (i.e. that God would be <u>well thought of by how you live</u>).

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."

The world seeks to get pleasure; the Christian seeks to <u>give it</u>.

We <u>must</u> 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 <u>both</u> that belong to God.

You cannot make a dichotomy of your life. He gets <u>all</u> 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.