Choosing to Respect AUTHORITY

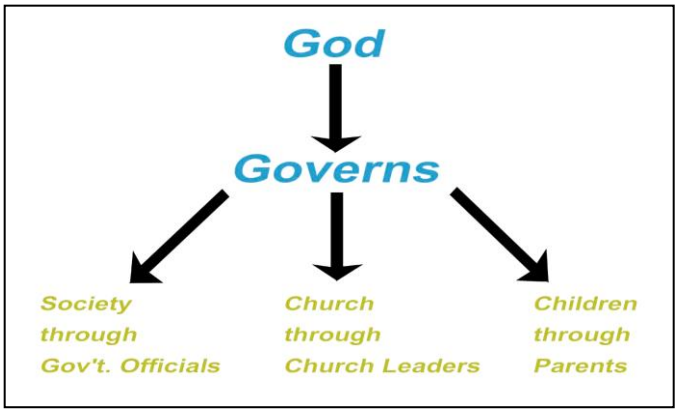
(Colossians 3:20 & Selected Scripture)
Faith Baptist Church, Lebanon, PA - Teen Retreat - August, 2017

God is a God of order.

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 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)



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

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

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

4. **This position of authority is to provide leadership, training, and/or protection 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 responsible 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 accountable 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).



* 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 -**

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 –
   See: Luke 2:49-52).

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

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

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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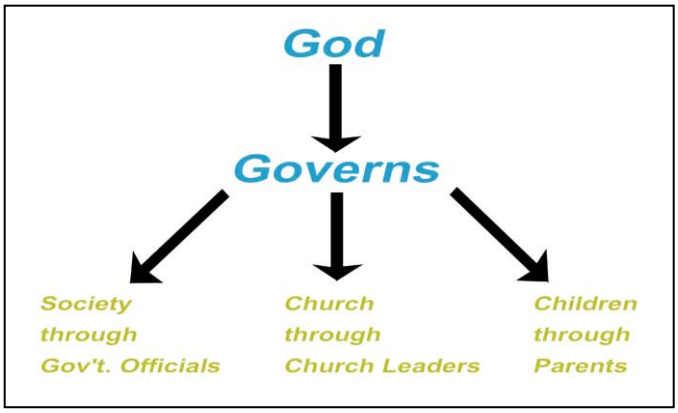

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