

Authority

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Who was the authority in your home when you were growing up? Who is the authority in your home today? Whose authority do you submit to in your life today? Is it your boss at work, or maybe your teacher in school? How about your parents, spouse, brother, sister, or one of your friends? Whose authority should you submit to, or should you yield to anyone? These are all important questions to answer in building relationships with people in life.

The English definition of authority given to us in Webster's Dictionary is: (1) the power to control, command, or determine. (2) A power or right delegated or given. The definition of the word used for authority in the Bible is: Power, right, strength, or token of control. The English definition does fit with the Bible definition in that authority is the power to control or the power given.

In today's world it seems that most people want to do "their own thing" and do not want to submit to any authority at all. We certainly do understand that it is not practical to have everyone do what they want and still have law, order, and safety. In fact if everyone did only what they wanted we would have a world filled with total chaos. So what is the good middle ground?

We know that it is proper to submit to the authority of the Creator of the universe. We are commanded to submit to God's authority. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus tells us that all authority both in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. He has all authority then in religious matters, matters of moral issues, and in every other area of our lives. When we read the words of the New Testament we are reading the words of Jesus. He has set an objective standard on how we are to live. He gives us priorities to live by. He tells us to love God first and foremost with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We are to love the people that we contact everyday, as we love ourselves. He tells us to submit to the authority He has allowed the civil government to have, as long as it does not conflict with His laws. He tells children to submit to their parents in the Lord.

We are also told how we are to Worship God, and conduct ourselves in the church. Jesus is the Head of His body the church. He tells us to submit to the elder's authority in the congregation we are in. We are submitting to His authority when we follow the pattern He has set in the New Testament.

Our lives are always better when we do things the right way. The right way is doing things God's way. When we submit our whole life to God's authority we can know that we will have a richer life here on earth and also the hope of a great reward in the next. May we all strive to submit our life to God by living in compliance to His Words.

Bible references: (Matthew 22:37-40, John 4:23-24, 12:48-50, 17:8,14,18, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:22-23, Hebrews 13:7, I Timothy 3:15, I Peter 2:13-17, II Peter 1:20-21).