**PRINCIPLES**

Sample Lesson

**Wyldewood Baptist Church Pastor Randy King**

**Lesson # 14**

**THE PRINCIPLE OF *Authority***

**INTRODUCTION:**  When God created man, he placed within him a desire (or appetite) for several things. These were designed by God for His glory and for man's good. These appetites include an appetite for food and drink, for sleep, for a mate and procreation, and for dominion. These natural appetites were placed in man so that even if he rebelled against God, he would fulfill God's purposes for man on earth, (e.g. to subdue the earth, to replenish the earth, to sustain life, etc.) All of these appetites were perverted at the fall, however, and Satan has been magnifying our fleshly desires to a place of inordinate preoccupation ever since that fateful day in the garden. Hence, we have **excesses** of eating and drinking*(instead of eating and drinking for sustenance),* perverted sexual desires *(instead of normal marital relations)*, rebellion and discord *(instead of order and harmony)*, and slothfulness, laziness, and covetousness *(instead of proper work and rest)*. ***God's original purpose for authority was so there could be order and harmony in His creation. Man was to subdue the earth, have dominion over the animals, and to "keep" the garden.***  **Eve was brought to Adam to be his companion and helper.** A careful study of the fall in Genesis will show that the appeal of the serpent was to man's pride and desire to "be as gods..." Gen 3:5. Just as Satan rebelled against God's authority in heaven, (Isa 14:12-16), he enticed man to rebel against God's authority in the garden. From then until now, mankind has been rebellious toward God and God-given authority. Throughout the history of man, (and witnessed by the Scriptures), God has been humbling man and trying to show man his need for God. Just as all other fleshly appetites need to be brought under control, the spirit of rebellion to authority needs to be brought under control. Notice how the apostle Paul admonishes the believers in Rome to bring their flesh under control: ***Rom 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: [my note: slothfulness sins] for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness [my note: food and drink sins], not in chambering and wantonness [sexual appetite sins], not in strife and envying [dominion / authority / submission sins]. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*** So we must understand as we approach the Bible principle of authority that much of what we know and practice is the result of our fleshly sin nature and not the will of God. To the average person, there is a natural rebellion to authority from any source. The four areas of authority that we primarily think of are: 1. The Home 2. Civil Government 3. The Workplace 4. The Church. We are averse to proper obedience, submission, and right leadership because we are tainted by our sin nature. In Christ we can allow God to give us wisdom and strength to do what we ought, not what we feel! We will study three perspectives about authority: God's purpose and design; Man's rebellion and failure; and the example of Old Testament saints, Jesus Christ and the apostles. During the discussion at the end we will discuss proper leadership, conflicts in authority, making an appeal, and other related subjects.  **(Much of the information for this lesson was plagiarized from the IBYC booklet on the Principle of Authority by Bill Gothard)** [Very few things that Pastor King teaches are original]

**PRINCIPLE:** **As a child of God, I am to submit to God given authority. Some of God's purposes for authority are to maintain order in God's creation, to glorify God, to punish evildoers, and to protect those under authority .**  One of God's purposes for earthly authority is to teach us to properly respond to His authority. We learn obedience to parents, teachers, principals, policemen, judges, employers, etc. so we can learn to respond in obedience to God. Mat 7:29 For he taught them as *one* having **authority,** and not as the scribes. Strong's Concordance: *1849. exousia, ex-oo-see'-ah;*  ***force, capacity, competency,*** *freedom, or*  ***mastery*** *(superhuman,* ***potentate****), delegated influence:--authority,* ***jurisdiction****, liberty,* ***power, right, strength****.*

I All true earthly authority is delegated from god

1 Tim 6:15 Which in his times he shall show, *who is* the blessed and only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Mat 21:23-27 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what **authority** doest thou these things? and who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thee this **authority?** *24* And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what **authority** I do these things. *25* The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? *26* But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. *27* And they answered Jesus, and said, We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** I do these things.

John 5:26-30 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **authority** to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. 30 I can of mine own self do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Acts 10:38 How God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.

Rom 13:1-5 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no **power** but of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the powers that be are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the **power,** resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the **power?** do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

John 19:10-11 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have \_\_\_\_\_ power *at all* against me, except it were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thee from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

II examples of earthly authority and promised blessings for obedience

1. **Governmental Authority**

Acts 23:1-5 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. *2* And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him on the mouth. *3* Then said Paul unto him, God shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thee, *thou* whited wall**:** for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? *4* And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? *5* Then said Paul, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the ruler of thy people.

Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authorityunder Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Acts 9:14 And here he hath authority from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Acts 26:10-12 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them.* 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. 12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the chief priests,

Mat 8:9-10 For I am a man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authority**,** having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under me: and I say to this *man,* Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it.* 10 When Jesus heard *it,* he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

1 Tim 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and *for* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that are in authority;that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1. **Church Authority**

2 Cor 10:7-8 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he *is* Christ's, even so *are* we Christ's. 8 For though I should boast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more of our **authority,** which the Lord hath \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

Titus 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with all authority**.** Let no man despise thee.

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto you the word of God: whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

Heb 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them that have the rule over you, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

1 Tim 2:12-14 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

1. **Home Authority**

Eph 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the wife,even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Eph 6:1-3 Children, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your parents in the Lord: for this is right. *2* Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; *3* That it may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

1. **Work Authority**

Eph 6:5-9 Servants, be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; *6* Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; *7* With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: *8* Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free. *9* And, ye masters,do the same things unto them, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ threatening: knowing that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Col 4:1 Masters,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto *your* servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

III Additional rewards that god promises to those who submit to his authority

1. **God is delighted**

Col 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto the Lord.

1. **You maintain a good conscience**

Rom 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sake.

1. **God is not blasphemed**

1 Tim 6:1-2 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own mastersworthy of all honour, that the name of God and his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be not blasphemed. 2 And they that have believing masters,let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

1. **You adorn the doctrine of God**

Titus 2:9-11 *Exhort* servants to be obedient unto their own masters,*and* to please *them* well in all *things;* not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but showing all good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; that they may adorn the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God our Saviour in all things.

1. **God accepts you and receives glory**

1 Pet 2:18-20 Servants, be subject to your masterswith all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.

1. **You will receive God's inheritance**

Col 3:22-24 Servants, obey in all things *your* mastersaccording to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of heart, fearing God: *23* And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; *24* Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

1. **You will be given clear direction**

Prov 6:20-22 My son, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: *21* Bind them continually upon thine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *and* tie them about thy neck. *22* When thou goest, it shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

***TESTIMONY:***  **I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. 90% of the trouble with people is just here. 90% of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.**  -- George Muller

IV gOD'S PURPOSEs FOR AUTHORITY

1. **To Glorify God**

Psa 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *belongeth* unto God.

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ glory, who first trusted in Christ.

1. **To maintain order in God's creation**

Gen 1:26-28 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. *27* So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. *28* And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it: and have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

1. **To punish evildoers and** **praise them that do well**

1 Pet 2:13-15 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; *14* Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and for the praise of themthat \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  *15* For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Rom 13:3-4 For rulers are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the same: *4* For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God, a revenger to *execute* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon him that doeth evil.

V the example of Jesus Christ

Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my belovedSon, in whom I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; hear ye him.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye notthat I must be about my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meatis to do the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of him that sent me, and to finish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work.

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_those things that please him.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by the things which he suffered;

1 Pet 3:21b-22 ...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and powers being made subject unto him.

VI the abuse of authority

We do not have time within the scope of this lesson to cover this important subject thoroughly, but God **does** allow disobedience to abusive authority **in extreme cases**. Before disobeying, we need to examine our heart, discern God's purpose for allowing these circumstances, make wise appeals, ask for grace and patience, suggest alternatives to our authority, and try to understand things from his point of view. If all else fails, then fleeing is one of God's ways of remedying an intolerable situation. The general pattern in the Bible is that God's people submitted to authority whenever possible, then made appeals for relief if necessary. If the authority refused to grant relief, then they submitted to the consequences but refused to compromise Biblical convictions. Examples of this are found in Exodus, Esther, Ruth, Daniel, Acts, and 3 John. Occasionally, fleeing was the only option left for the people of God, and examples of this are found in Paul and David's lives. There are those times when the prophets of God rebuked civil authority, but rebellion or insurrection only come after a complete breakdown of God's order for authority.

**Note:** There are many issues involved in responding to civil authority in the USA. As Christians, are we to submit to our elected officials in a land where the government is "Of the People, By the People, For the People"? Is this a Christian nation? Does God intervene in our society and give us the rulers we deserve?

**(Psa 75:6-7 For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. Dan 2:20-21 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:)**

What about honoring elected officials who are supposed to be "public servants"? If they are to be our servants, why do they wield authority over us in respect to laws and enforcement? (Taxes, ordinances, etc.) Are we to submit to man made laws like fire codes and speed limits? Is a Christian above these laws?

**(1 Pet 2:13-21 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17 Honour all *men.* Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. 18 Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19 For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory *is it,* if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it,* ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:)**

Prov 29:2 When the righteous are in authority**,** the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Mat 20:25-28 But Jesus called them *unto him,* and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over them, and they that are great exercise authorityupon them. 26 But it shall not be so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

**PRINCIPLE:** **As a child of God, I am to submit to God given authority. Some of God's purposes for authority are to maintain order in God's creation, to glorify God, to punish evil doers, and to protect those under authority.**

**QUOTABLE:** The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says "Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. I don't want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, but to have it out. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked -- the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours." -- C. S. Lewis

(During our discussion at the end we will discuss proper leadership, conflicts in authority, making an appeal, and other related subjects.)

**CONVICTIONS:  *What convictions can a Christian derive from this principle?***

1. Have a conviction to submit to God given authority
2. Have a conviction to be a servant-leader when asked to lead
3. Have a conviction to repent of any rebellious spirit I may have
4. Have a conviction to train my children to properly respond to authority
5. 1Have a conviction to belong to a church where the pastor speaks with authority as the Oracles of God, following the example of Jesus
6. Have a conviction to be a diligent employee
7. Have a conviction to be a Godly influence on civil authorities

**STANDARDS:** ***What standards can we set up to enable us to keep our convictions?***

1. Have a standard to place myself under Godly authority whenever I have a choice
2. Have a standard to be attentive to the words of those who have authority over me
3. Have a standard to communicate my needs or questions in a submissive way to my leaders
4. Have a standard to humbly appeal to authority before I consider disobedience
5. Have a standard to not usurp authority in any setting, no matter how small
6. Have a standard to try to win elected officials to Christ

**PREFERENCES: *What are some preferences we can hold in view of this principle?***

1. Prefer to work for saved people
2. Prefer to vote for Christians or those who uphold Godly values
3. Prefer to have an orderly lifestyle, particularly in my home
4. Prefer to have my children speak in low tones, respectfully with "Yes sir" and "Yes ma'am"
5. Prefer to have music that does not breed rebellion and insubordination
6. Prefer to write letters to officials that do not rail or accuse, but appeal for relief

**HANGUPS:** ***What common hangups are usually associated with this subject?***

1. I only answer to God, since I have direct access to Him
2. I must be cooperative at all costs, until they put a peaceful bullet in my peaceful brain
3. I will lead a rebellion, since they can't kill all of us
4. I am the boss of my house, and I keep my wife under lock and key

**CONCLUSIONS:** Perhaps no where does the carnal mind chafe at a subject and rebel against it like the topic of submission to authority. Ever since the garden of Eden, man has gone his own way (Prov 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways ofdeath.). It is very difficult for us to submit to authority, since we have a hard time trusting God to lead those over us. It is for that very reason that we need to study this subject carefully and thoroughly. All true authority is supposed to reflect God's authority, and ultimately to teach us to respond to God. Our objections usually center around three things:

1. Being rebels by nature prevents us from seeing things from God's perspective
2. Human authority is imperfect, and sometimes cruel and wicked
3. We are not always certain what God would have us do in a given situation

It is hoped that this lesson will give each one of us some insight, understanding, and grace to follow the plan of God. ***1 Tim 6:15 Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;***

**ILLUSTRATION:** To make the value of obedience just as practical as possible, let's play "Let's pretend." Let's pretend that you work for me. In fact, you are my executive assistant in a company that is growing rapidly. I'm the owner and I'm interested in expanding overseas. To pull this off, I make plans to travel abroad and stay there until the new branch office gets established. I make all the arrangements to take my family in the move to Europe for six to eight months, and I leave you in charge of the busy stateside organization. I tell you that I will write you regularly and give you direction and instructions. I leave and you stay. Months pass. A flow of letters are mailed from Europe and received by you at the national headquarters. I spell out all my expectations. Finally, I return. Soon after my arrival I drive down to the office. I am stunned! Grass and weeds have grown up high. A few windows along the street are broken. I walk into the receptionist's room and she is doing her nails, chewing gum, and listening to her favorite disco station. I look around and notice the waste baskets are overflowing, the carpet hasn't been vacuumed for weeks, and nobody seems concerned that the owner has returned. I ask about your whereabouts and someone in the crowded lounge area points down the hall and yells, "I think he's down there." Disturbed, I move in that direction and bump into you as you are finishing a chess game with our sales manager. I ask you to step into my office (which has been temporarily turned into a television room for watching afternoon soap operas). "What in the world is going on, man?" "What do ya' mean, Chuck?" "Well, look at this place! Didn't you get any of my letters?" "Letters? Oh, yeah -- sure, got every one of them. As a matter of fact, Chuck, we have had letter study every Friday night since you left. We have even divided all the personnel into small groups and discussed many of the things you wrote. Some of those things were really interesting. You'll be pleased to know that a few of us have actually committed to memory some of your sentences and paragraphs. One or two memorized an entire letter or two! Great stuff in those letters!" "Okay, okay -- you got my letters, you studied them and meditated on them, discussed and even memorized them. But what did you do about them?" "Do? Uh -- we didn't do anything about them."

-- *Improving Your Serve*, by Charles Swindoll, p. 170-171