

SUBMITTING TO GOD'S AUTHORITY – RESISTING SATAN'S REBELLION

The Bible has much to say about spiritual authority and the necessity that the church willingly submit to the authority of God and the authority of those that God has appointed over us. All authorities of the earth are instituted by God. It is therefore critical for us who desire to serve God to understand and know how to submit to those authorities. Delegated authority is how the universe is governed.

I. TWO MAIN PRINCIPLES THAT GOVERN THE UNIVERSE

- A. The principle of God's authority
- B. The principal of Satan's rebellion

Romans 13:1-7 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

1. All authority that currently exists does so by the ordained or permissive will of God.
2. Resisting the authority over us is to resist the authority of God. We are expected to submit to authorities that may not be perfect, (governments, teachers, police force, parents, and ministers).
3. There are main reasons to willfully submit to the authorities over our lives.
 - A. He is a minister, servant of God that has the authority to punish.
 - B. For the sake of our conscience before God.
4. The Apostle Paul expected and taught the church to submit willingly to the good and bad authorities over the Body of Christ. That includes the five-fold ministry gifts (Eph 4:11-14)and also to one another. (James 4:6-8, 1 Peter 5:5-9)

Colossians 3:18 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."

Colossians 3:22-25 "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for ^[a] you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality."

II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

Acts 9:4-5 "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ^[a] It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

Acts 9:10-12 "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

- A. Paul as he persecuted the church has a supernatural encounter with Jesus, the HEAD of the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Colossians 1:18 "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

- B. Paul spoke out against the high priest without knowing it was him. He quickly recognized it and corrected his action.

Acts 23:2-5 "And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" ⁵ Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

III. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. Jesus knowing that the hour of His death was now upon Him sought His Father in prayer to see if it were possible to allow the cup of his suffering, the fullness of God's wrath upon Him, to pass from Him. But more important to Him over his own comfort was to have the will of its Father fulfilled.

Matthew 26:39 "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- B. Jesus stood before two courts. First, He stood before the court of earthly authority. Herod and Pilate represented the authority of man and the Roman jurisdiction. Jesus was not commissioned by man but by His Father, the spiritual authority of the Jewish spiritual leaders. When Jesus stood before Pilate and Herod, he answered them not a word. But when Jesus was “adjured “commanded to speak “under oath” in the name of the living God, He then answered the high priest.

Matthew 26:62-64 “***And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?”***⁶³ ***But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”*** Jesus said to him, “***It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.***”

Matthew 27:12-14 “***And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?”***¹⁴ ***But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.***”

- C. Jesus’ life of obedience reveals the source of His authority on the earth and over the power of satan’s kingdom. The Gospel clearly reveals His submission to His Father’s will that enabled Him to operate in the authority of His Father’s Kingdom. His humility was the magnetic force that allowed for a breaking in of His Father’s Kingdom into the Kingdom of man.

Philippians 2:8-11 “***And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.***⁹ ***Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***¹⁰ ***that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,***¹¹ ***and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***”

John 14:12-13 “***Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.***¹³ ***And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.***”

Jesus’ teachings in the Gospels also emphasize the connection between spiritual authority and one’s submission to the authority who is over us. Believers do not realize the severity of insubordination and operating in a rebellious spirit. Pride, rebellion and an independent spirit cripples one’s ability to operate under godly and delegated spiritual authority.

IV. THE ORIGIN OF REBELLION AND THE FALL OF SATAN

- A. Lucifer (Satan), was the most glorious of the created beings created by God in eternity past. He conducted the worship of heaven and was created to be able to stand before the glory of God. Due to his jealousy of God and his overreaching to touch God’s authority, he was filled with self pride and fell from the favor of God.

Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground,
you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart:
I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, On the farthest sides of the north;
¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'
¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Ezekiel 28:13-17 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. " By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. " Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you."

Satan's sin was a sin against the authority of God. It was the act of his rebellion that sealed his fate before the throne of God. Rebellion is a wicked sin before God because it is rooted in the spirit of darkness and witchcraft, (1 Samuel 15:23). Rebellion is rooted in self will, which opposes the authority and the right of God to rule over our lives. When believers in Christ choose to resist the spiritual authority God has placed over their lives, they unknowingly are "partnering" with a spirit of rebellion, a spirit of a witchcraft, which came from Satan.

B. Satan's fall is a progressive fall. He once walked before God in the 3rd heaven. He was immediately cast down to the 2nd heaven (heavens, space) and he will be cast down to the 1st heaven (earth) in the last days just prior to the 2nd coming. His final fall will be when he is cast down into the lake of fire which is UNDER THE EARTH.

1. Lucifer was before God in the 3rd heaven. - Ezekiel 28:14
2. From 3rd heaven to 2nd heaven. -Isaiah 14:12-14
3. From the 2nd heaven to the 1st heaven. – Revelation 12:7-9
4. From the 1st heaven to hell, the pit, the Lake of fire.

- Isa 14:15, Rev 20:1-2 , Rev 20:10