Respect for Authority

2 Pet. 2:10
Authority - noun - the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

Introduction:
A. Disrespect for authority is at the root of all kinds of ungodliness.
   1. False teaching (v. 1).
   2. Presumption and self-will (v. 10).
   3. Unbridled lust and pleasure (v. 12-14; 18-19).
   5. Makes one a menace to himself, society and the church.
B. We shall notice four vital points about respecting authority:

Discussion:
I. Respect for Authority Is Essential to the Christian Life.
   A. Christian to pray for all in authority (1 Tim. 2:2).
   B. Christian to respect authority in the three basic God-ordained institutions:
      1. The Home (1 Tim. 3:5).
      3. The Church (1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17, 24; Tit. 2:15).

II. Respect for Authority Is Ultimately Respect for God.
   A. God is the source of all legitimate authority. (Rom. 13:1,2; John 19:10,11).
   B. All earthly authority subject to Higher Authority.
      1. Civil powers subject to God.
      2. Head of woman subject Christ. (1 Cor. 11:3).
      3. Fathers over children subject to the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
      4. Elders over flock subject to Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).
      5. All earthly authority secondary to Higher authority (Acts 5:29).

III. Respect for Authority Establishes and Maintains Our Relationship to Christ.
   A. Must recognize Jesus as “Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)
      3. Head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22).
   B. Must submit to authority in obeying gospel. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16).
      1. Baptized into Christ and His church (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).
      2. All spiritual blessings in Christ. (Eph. 1:3).
   C. Must submit to scriptural authority in worship and service directed to God.
      1. To do otherwise to be “presumptuous” (Text)
         a. To presume is “to venture without authority or permission; dare”1
            (1) Makes worship vain (cf. Matt. 15:9)
            (2) Brings God’s judgment (Matt. 7:21; Lev. 10:1-2).
         b. Three ways to know: Command, Example, Necessary inference.
      2. Can be morally right, but religiously wrong. (Matt. 15:1-3)

IV. Respect for Authority Usually Begins at Home.
   A. Children are not born with respect, must learn it - Prov 22:15)
      1. By teaching, discipline and example.
      2. Need to see it in lives of parents.
   B. Disrespect at home leads to bigger problems. (Cf. 1 Sam 3:10-14).

Conclusion:
A. Let us learn to respect all legitimate authority, especially Divine Authority.
B. Why not submit, today by obeying the gospel of Christ?