

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).
4. Complete apostasy (vv. 20-22).
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).
 2. The State (1 Pet 2:13-17).
 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)
 1. Has all authority. (Matt. 28:18).
 2. Reigns on David's throne. (Acts 2:29-31).
 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?