



*Berean Family Worship Center*  
*One Church In Two Cities*  
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Wednesday, December 08, 2021 - Group Study  
**Lesson Series: Authority, Submission And Rebellion**

Lesson Series Text: (*Psa. 24:1-2; Heb. 1:2-3 TEV*)

**Lesson 3: Authority In The Church**

Lesson 3 Text: (*Mat. 16:18-19*)

*All Scriptures are KJV; unless otherwise noted.*

*Prepared By Dr. Walter Henderson III*

- I. Let's review some previous comments.
  - A. There is no authority in the universe except for God's Authority.
  - B. There are two types of authority; natural and spiritual.
  - C. All authority is defined by relationship.
  - D. The natural authority is derived from God's order and designed structure.
  - E. All spiritual authority is derived from our direct relationship with the Lord and in accordance with our individual calling.
  - F. God appoints deputies and invest authority in them.
  - G. The attitude that we receive God's representative is seen by God as the way that we receive Him.
  - H. God sees rebellion as the sin of witchcraft.
  - I. The first deputies were Adam and Eve.
- II. The church is the primary manifestation of the Kingdom Of God in the earth. By church, I don't mean a building, an organization, a denomination, an ethnicity, etc. I mean the called out believers that have been born again and have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
  - A. Jesus has been given all power in heaven and earth. (*Mat. 28:18*)
  - B. All things were placed under Jesus feet, and He is the Head over all things to the church. (*Eph. 1:22-23*)
  - C. Jesus has invested His authority into the church. (*Mat. 28:19-20; 16:18-19*)
  - D. The Church has the keys and therefore the authority of God's Kingdom on earth.
  - E. God has determined the design of the natural authority within His church.
- III. God's Kingdom is not a democracy, which means we don't get to vote on things, and the opinion of the majority is not what decides the final say.
  - A. The Kingdom Of God is a theocracy, meaning it has one king, who makes the rules. Our King is Jesus, and He has specific guidelines on how the kingdom is to operate.
  - B. It is important that we learn how to properly relate to spiritual authority, so that we don't hinder what God wants to do in our lives
  - C. When it comes to relating to spiritual authority, it is important to find out what the Bible has to say about rebellion in the church.

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- D. Being a part of things like church secession and division has serious consequences. (*Rom. 13:1-2* says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.")
- a. Examples: Korah and Miriam
- IV. Members are to relate properly to their leaders. (*Heb. 13:7* - **Remember** them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.)
- A. Remember your leader – Don't take them for granted.
- B. We are to esteem them very highly for their work sake. (*1Thes. 5:12-13* - And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.)
- C. Members are to obey their leaders. (*Heb. 13:17* - Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.)
- D. Members are to obey in such a way that it brings joy and not grief to the leaders.
- E. Leaders are to be valued and esteemed; but never just followed blindly.
- a. Leaders should be good examples. (*1 Cor. 11:1, 1 The. 2:10; 1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8*)
- b. Leaders are not to be lording over God's flock. (*1 Pet. 5:3* - Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.)
- c. The scriptures are replete with leaders as servant leaders and as shepherds.
- d. Leaders also should be held accountable.
- V. Submission is not an option, but obedience is.
- A. Submission is commanded by scripture.
- a. Submission is an attitude.
- B. Obedience is done when it is in line with God's Word.
- a. Obedience is a choice.
- VI. Remember, authority starts by considering "The Authority" (God) before you consider the person.

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