

THE RESTORATION OF MAN

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Chpt. 19 (Duffy, p. 92)

1. Is one authority structure as acceptable as any other in God's view with regard to the administration of His Church? No, God only intends for his church body to follow the structure that has been authorized in the in His Word. God works hard to bring man into conformity and aligned with the Word of God. Our Flesh tends to want things done its way, but the Spirit convicts us and compels us to do things God's way. This is why the Holy Ghost is paramount, because, it will lead and guide you into all truth, if you allow it too. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 13:16, KJV)
2. If not, does God provide for a particular authority structure? Yes God does have a particular authority structure? God has made for the protection of His people is that a local church is to be ruled by elders and administrative procedures which assure that "every fact may be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses." (Duffy, p. 95). Remember that God does not move through Solidarity, "you must have a witness!" (1 Tim 3:1-7, 5:17; Acts 20:28, 11:30 and Titus 1:5)
3. If God does provide for a particular authority structure for His Church, is there a judgment for failure to abide in it? Absolutely there will be judgment when the church fail to abide by God's authority structure. In fact, God's greatest commodity, which are People, suffer and lack because of poor leadership and people that do not follow authority breeds chaos in the church and home. Furthermore, "when a church departs from the provisions in each of the preceding area
4. Several Tendencies of unregenerate human nature that threaten successful leadership.
 1. REBELLION - The desire to be independent, not subject to authority; to assume a position which is like that of God, in which he is subject only to his own counsel. (Matthew 22:27, Exodus 20:3, 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Isaiah 14:13-14).
 1. Our Rebellious nature was to come under the control of the Jesus Christ, once we were born again. However, pride and unbelief will inhibit your progress in Jesus Christ (Duffy, p. 94)

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2. PRIDE - natural man has of himself in which he places himself higher than or more important than others (with heart as to the consequences of being removed from this position, hence a protective rationale for its defense). (1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 15:23, Philip 2:3-9)
 1. Your Pride will place in in direct opposition with Good, not man, but God! However, his grace depends on our willingness to obey his word and humbly submit to the circumstances in which God has placed us. (Duffy, p. 94)
3. INSECURITY - The result of threatening circumstances to a person who reviews that security comes from being in personal control of circumstances, people and decisions which influence one's life, rather than from trust in God and obedience to His precepts.
 1. Our security is is derived from trust in Him and obedience to His precepts rather than our own hand. (Josh 1:5-9, Psalms 127:1-2, John 17:12-20.

Structures of Authority

order in the home, church, workplace, and government

Recognizing and obeying the one in charge brings security and order to a group. Each person looks to the leader for direction and accountability, and he or she provides guidance for working through questions or problems that arise. The one in charge is ultimately responsible for the activities and productivity of the group.

In the Bible, God outlines authority structures that provide direction for the family, church, workplace, and government. *"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"* (Romans 13:1).

God Is the Source of All Authority

By virtue of Who He is as creator of all things, **God is the sovereign ruler of the universe.** He has all power and all authority, and He entrusts roles of leadership to individuals in the family, the church, the workplace, and the government.

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The orderliness we find in structures of authority reflects the order of God's own nature. Jesus Christ is God: who is our Spiritual Father, who was manifested in the Flesh and Mary brought forth a Son and called Him, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, which is God's Spirit. Jesus came into this world as Savior and Redeemer. (See I John 4:9.) Jesus was obedient to the end. (See John 5:19.) When Jesus returned to heaven, The Holy Spirit was sent to comfort Jesus' disciples, lead them in all truth, remind them of the words of Jesus, and empower them to carry out Jesus' commission to spread the Gospel. (See John 14:26, 15:26, and Acts 1:8.)

Four Biblical Authority Structures

God ordained human authority in four areas and established a specific chain of command in each area. This structure does not express superiority or inferiority. Just as each member of the Trinity is essential to express the fullness of God, so within social structures each role in the chain of authority is necessary for the success of the relationship.

1. **Family:** Husband—Wife—Children

God entrusts husbands with the leadership of the family unit. A husband is to love his wife as he loves himself. A wife is to submit to the leadership of her husband, coming alongside him as a helpmate. Parents are responsible to train their children, and children are to honor and obey their parents. (See Ephesians 5:21–6:4 and Proverbs 6:20–21.)

2. **Government:** National leaders—Local officials—Citizens

In Scripture we are instructed to respect and obey government authorities and ordinances and to live honorably within our communities. National leaders and local officials are to punish evildoers and honor those who do well. (See I Peter 2:13–17 and Romans 13:1–5.)

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3. **Church:** Church leaders—Church members

Within the church, the leadership of pastors, elders, and teachers is essential for the health of the Body of Christ. Believers are to honor and respect leaders and to submit to one another and walk in humility. (See Ephesians 4:11–16, Hebrews 13:17, and I Peter 5:1–11.)

4. **Business:** Employers—Employees

Employers are challenged to act with equity and care as they oversee employees, patterning their behavior after God Himself, Who is their authority. Employees are responsible to serve well, doing their work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord. (See Colossians 3:22–4:1 and I Peter 2:18.)

Everyone Is Accountable to God

Each person is accountable to God for his actions, whether he is in authority over others or in a position under authority. God is not prejudiced by culture, education, position, or wealth, and He will judge each person according to His righteous standards.

Human **authorities are accountable for how they exercise their authority**. They are responsible to provide protection and direction for those under their care, to punish those who do wrong, and to praise those who do well.

Those under authority are accountable to God for their responses to authority. Since God placed authorities over us, to obey them is to submit to God's design and authority in our lives.

If an authority asks us to do something that is wrong, we need to [appeal to him](#) and explain why we cannot violate God's laws. *"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"* (Colossians 3:23–24).

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" . . . Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:5–7).

Accountability is a foundational premise on which all relationships are built. As children of God, children of earthly parents, parents of our own children, employees, employers, and citizens of communities, **each of us must wisely carry out his responsibilities** both as an instrument of authority and as one who is submitted to authority. Thus, God's design can be implemented in our relationship with Him, our families, our communities, and our nations.