

2026-07-05 Points

Title: Who's In Charge? Submitting to Divine Authority in a World of Rebellion

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the fundamental struggle between human rebellion and divine authority, tracing the conflict from Satan's fall in heaven to the ongoing spiritual warfare on earth. The pastor emphasizes that true freedom comes not from being in charge ourselves, but from submitting to Christ's lordship. Drawing parallels between America's founding patriots who sought Christ as their King and believers today who must choose whom they will serve, the message challenges Christians to recognize Jesus as both Savior and Lord. The sermon stresses that while we naturally desire control and authority in our lives, genuine peace and spiritual victory come through wholehearted submission to God's authority, even when facing opposition, unfairness, or persecution.

Key Points:

- From birth, humans struggle with authority and desire to be in charge of their own lives
- Satan's rebellion in heaven began when he sought glory for himself rather than giving it to God
- The devil was cast out of heaven and now wages war against believers on earth
- Christians overcome through the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and faithfulness unto death
- True patriotism for believers means first allegiance to Christ as King, not earthly powers
- Submission to authority—even unjust authority—is a biblical principle that brings internal peace
- God's grace is sufficient even when He doesn't remove our hardships or thorns in the flesh
- The Israelites' rebellion and fear prevented them from entering the Promised Land, except for Joshua and Caleb who followed God wholeheartedly
- Parents must teach Scripture to their children throughout daily life to pass

on faith to future generations

- The choice every person faces is whether to fear God or fear the circumstances and opposition around them

Scripture Reference:

- Revelation 12:7-17 (Primary focus - war in heaven, Satan cast down, persecution of believers)
- Deuteronomy 1:26-40 (Israel's rebellion and refusal to enter the Promised Land)
- Deuteronomy 6 (Teaching children about God's commands throughout daily life)
- References to 1 Peter and 2 Peter regarding submission and suffering
- 2 Corinthians 12 (Paul's thorn in the flesh and God's sufficient grace)

Stories:

- Opening joke about the nursery school child who thought he was "four" not "free" regarding patriotism
- Historical account of America's founding patriots (mostly in their 30s) who established the nation with Christ as their desired King
- Account of General Washington reportedly being shot multiple times in battle but continuing unharmed, encouraging his troops
- The pastor's personal rule of engagement with his wife Julie: "I'll not hit you first" (meaning not reacting in anger)
- Childhood memories of fighting with siblings and learning the phrase "you aren't my boss"
- The prodigal son's return and repentance (referenced as example of submitting to authority)
- The twelve spies sent to survey the Promised Land—ten brought back fearful reports while Joshua and Caleb trusted God
- Moses leading Israel through the wilderness, with God going before them in fire by night and cloud by day