

Under Authority - God's Authority

Romans 13:1 NKJV -*Let every soul be **subject** to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

Subject – hypotássō. This word was used as a military term. It is a compound word made up of two other words: Hypo and Tasso.

Hypo - to be under **Tasso** - to place in a certain order, to arrange, to assign a place, to appoint.

Hypotasso –

- 1.to arrange under, to subordinate
- 2.to subject, put in subjection
- 3.to subject one's self, obey
- 4.to submit to one's control
- 5.to yield to one's admonition or advice
- 6.to obey, be subject

Submission here is **intentional**, not forced. Authority is one of the ways He brings that order into the earth.

We can see that this is talking about being under authority. According to this verse we are supposed to be under governing authorities.

Hosea 8:4 NLT- *The people have appointed kings without my consent, and princes without my approval. By making idols for themselves from their silver and gold, they have brought about their own destruction.*

God is a God of authority. Authority, government, is a good thing because God has set it up.

Lawlessness- Term used to describe people not restrained or controlled by law, especially God's law. Rebellion against God. Sin.

Romans 13:2 NKJV - *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

In our society today, we are often taught that submission to authority is optional, it is taught that you only submit to authority if you agree with that authority. But that's not what scripture teaches. According to this, when you resist or buck against any authority, you are not just resisting people, you are resisting the structure God Himself has established.

Anarchy- a state of disorder due to absence or nonrecognition of authority or other controlling systems.

There is a difference between submitting to authority and obedience to authority. (we will talk more about this in the next session) **Submission deals with our attitudes. Obedience deals with our responsive actions.**

Romans 13:2 AMPC - *Therefore he who resists and sets himself up against the authorities resists what God has appointed and arranged [in divine order]. And those who resist will bring down judgment upon themselves [receiving the penalty due them].*

When you resist authority, you are going against God's divine order.

Going against God's divine order will lead to not following God's plan for your life.

Proverbs 12:1 NKJV- *Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.*

God positions us in certain places and under certain leaders to train us, teach us, and equip us.

We need to respect authority because all authority comes from God. This is God's way of doing things.

Authority is a good thing. It is a God thing. God is the one who created authority in the first place, and we are called to submit to His authority and to the authority He has placed in our lives.

You cannot separate God and authority. He is authority.

Colossians 1:16 NKJV- *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

Let's review 8 areas of authority the Bible speaks about and how we are to submit to each one.

1. God's Authority

Ephesians 5:24 NKJV - *"Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."*

Subject, same word hypotasso. We the church, we are under the authority of Christ. That includes the Pastor and everyone in leadership.

James 4:7 NKJV - *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

First submit then resist. Same word translated “submit”. We are all under God’s authority.

2. Civil or Governmental Authority

Romans 13:3-7 NKJV - *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.“*

Civil authority is also Godly. Without some form of government there would be anarchy.

3. Church Authority

Hebrews 13:7 NKJV - *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

Hebrews 13:17 NKJV - *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

Teachers in any capacity have authority in the classroom. In this case, ministry gifts have authority in the church and students should submit to those who are in leadership.

4. Wives submitting to their husbands

Colossians 3:18 NKJV - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

Ephesians 5:22-24 NKJV - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

God is the one who designed/created the family. We are under God’s authority and there is authority in the family.

5. Children submitting to their parents

Ephesians 6:1-3 NKJV - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*

Colossians 3:20 NKJV - *Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*

6. Employees submitting to employers

I Peter 2:18 NKJV - *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.*

Hypotasso used here again.

Going against any authority is going against what God has setup regardless if that authority is gentle or harsh.

7. Younger submitting to older

I Peter 5:5 NKJV - *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*

Same word, hypotasso.

Two major keys to following God's plan for your life and being successful in the ministry: Submit to authority and remain teachable (that means not prideful).

8. Everyone submitting to each other in love

Ephesians 5:18-21 NKJV - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

This is God's way. Be quick to yield to others in the church.

This is vitally important that we learn to submit to authority in our lives. This is going to help us so much. Next week we are going to talk more about how we actually do this and when would you not obey authority. Because there is a difference between submitting and obedience. AND can you not obey and still submit?