

The Exercise of Authority

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I. Introduction.

II. Authority is legitimate. (Proverbs 22:15)

A. It is given as a reward in Scripture.

B. God has delegated it. (Luke 22)

C. The reward for authority is more authority.

1. This is because God is interested in character, character is interested in choices, authority is the right to choose and right choices mean right character.

2. Therefore, right character is rewarded by the opportunity for more choices and character development. (Luke 19)

III. Authority brings with it an obligation to perform.

A. Samuel is an example of one who failed to perform—he failed to first honor the Lord and exercise authority. (1 Samuel 3:13)

B. Since Saul refused the responsibility the Lord gave him, his authority was taken away. (1 Samuel 15)

IV. Authority must be exercised in a biblical manner.

A. How a thing is done is extremely important.

B. God's exercise of authority: it is in righteousness. (Acts 17:31)

C. The husband and wife relationship. Husbands are to love their wives and not be harsh with them. (Colossians 3:19)

D. The parental relationship. The father is not to provoke and discourage his children. (Colossians 3:21)

E. Governors are to be just over men. (2 Samuel 23:3)

F. Employers are not to threaten employees.

G. Spiritual leaders are to be servants and examples.

V. Biblical authority must be exercised though challenged.

A. God is the example of this. Despite rebellion God is still in charge. (Isaiah 14, etc)

B. Parents are not to run from problems with their children. (Proverbs 29:15)

C. Spiritual leaders are challenged.

D. How to deal with challenge.

1. Be courageous—lead. (Joshua 1:17-18)

2. Hang in there. (2 Timothy 1:7, Titus 2:15)

VI. Authority brings with it accountability. To whom much is given, much will be required. (Luke 12)

VII. Accountability is at the source of responsibility and authority.

A. We have two accountabilities: intermediate (men) and ultimate (God).

B. Authority can come from the top down and the bottom up, so there can be a responsibility in more than one direction. One can be a servant in many directions.

C. The husband is the head of the house.

1. This comes from others.

2. There is a spirit of submission that weaves all the relationships.

D. A parent should seek a clear conscience with his whole family.

E. Biblical leadership is not a hard cold thing—it is a God thing.

VIII. The ultimate accountability is to God Himself.

A. Power can be a poison, but it is not fatal to the person who has faith in a power over him.

B. There is no anecdote for those who do not hold a power over them—therefore, our job is to bring God into everything.

C. All authority relationships are related to the ultimate authority.

1. Husbands must relate properly to their wives so their prayers are not hindered.

2. Wives are to submit as to the Lord.

3. Parents are to bring up children in the nurture of the Lord.

4. Children are to obey in the Lord.

5. The governors are to govern in the fear of the Lord.

6. The governed are not to resist as to God.

7. Employers have a master in heaven.

8. Employees are to work as to Christ.
9. Spiritual leaders are to lead in the Lord.
10. Followers are to be subject because of God.

IX. Conclusion: our accountability to God is one of the greatest thoughts. (Romans 14:12)

Application questions

1. Summarize the obligation and exercise of authority.

2. Why must authority be exercised though challenged? Why is it important to recognize this?

3. What one thing can you take from this message that will change your view on leadership or change the way you go about it?
