



## Lesson 44 "Authority"

Romans 13:1-7

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We have been given, through Scripture, a "hierarchy" or "chain of command" that we must submit to.

Number vertically on your paper 1-5. As you read this passages, write down the hierarchy we are given. For example, number 1 will be the authority that we must obey above all others. Number 2 will be the next authority to be obeyed, etc. All questions that will find their answer in this list are marked as "hierarchy" questions.

*(Hierarchy Question)* Read 1 Timothy 6:13-16. Who is the only true sovereign? What place should He be given in terms of submission/obedience?

*(Hierarchy Question)* Read 1 Peter 5:1-5. Who is Peter exhorting here? What role do they have? Is there an age qualification here? Who should the younger be subject to? In what manner should the younger be subject to them?

*(Hierarchy Question)* Read Matthew 22:17-21. The Pharisees and Herodians thought they had trapped Jesus. What question did they ask? What response did He give? What things fall under the heading of "things to give to Caesar/government" in your life? What things fall under the heading of "things to give to God" in your life? Knowing the "place" God is in regarding submission, what impact does this have on your relationship with the government?

*(Hierarchy Question)* Read Ephesians 6:1-4. Who is told to obey here? Who are they told to obey? What hierarchy does that establish? What warning is given for those in authority in this situation?

*(Hierarchy Question)* Read Ephesians 6:5-9. Who is being called to submit here? To whom are they to submit and obey? In what attitude or manner should they obey? Why? What is the warning given for those in authority here? \*\*\*

Read Acts 5:27-32. What command did the authorities give to Peter and the apostles? What was their response?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. What are we supposed to do for all those in high positions? Why?

Read Titus 3:1-2. How does this passage go along with Romans 13:1-7?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. According to Peter, why should we be subject to the human authorities? How does this go with Paul's teaching in Romans 13:1-7?

\*\*\*In today's terms, this relationship would be one of an employer and an employee.

AS you spend time with God today, consider your attitude toward those in authority to you. Are you rebelling against the authority? Is your attitude (not just your action) one of submission or resistance? Ask God to help you to obey His command to submit to the authority He has placed over you. Ask Him to give you wisdom to discern when earthly authority is trying to usurp His authority, and ask Him for wisdom to know what action to take. Ask Him to guard your heart, to prevent you from trying to justify your disobedience when disobedience is not called for. Pray for your leaders today. For the head of your government, your local leaders, your elders and pastors, your parents, your spouse, and your children. Ask for His wisdom in your role in all of those hierarchies, be it subordinate or superior. And ask Him to help you to pray for *all* your leaders diligently and with compassion.