



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders?

Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by NLONG (), on: 2007/6/7 12:41

Hope this is a better title and If I had a wrong Spirit I sincerely appologize!

I understand that we are not to curse our leaders, this is overwhelmingly scriptural. I do take issue to the fact that once someone turns into a leader and they profess to be a Christian that they are untouchable to reproof and rebuke!

If we are unable, then John the Baptist should not have been so well spoken of by our LORD. There should have been some rebuke or comment that he died in vain. But he rebuked the king and was jailed and killed for it. Just one of a long line of men in the bible that rebuked the leader including Elijah and Elisha.

How about if the leader is a murderer or adulterous or liar or whatever else that is sinful? Are we not permitted to say anything at all? Or how about if they are a Christian in name only?

Does James 5:19-20 apply? "My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins." Or the other scriptures on accountability?

Now in this forum I realize I wasn't rebuking a person to their face. I'd accept the chance. Was I speaking evil? Or speaking truth? My intent wasn't slander (which is speaking falsely) or gossip.

Like to hear how we balance not speaking ill of our leaders and reproof.

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders?, on: 2007/6/7 13:15

NLONG, I'm glad you've come back to deal with this. You were 'sounding' rough on the person you were posting that question to and I've prayed that I wasn't sounding rough too.

Electronic communicating is the hardest way on earth to communicate I believe. At least for me it is. I do have a writing-expressive problem and when I have to write an important letter to someone, I have to read it a 100 times it seems, to see if it's reflecting my heart. Rough stuff for me - honestly. No one can hear your tone of voice or inflections etc., etc.. For me it's the hardest way on earth to communicate. When I just want to give a quick opinion, it sounds like it's being "rough", like on the thread about "Judgment and Satan" about when Satan will be bound. Being on the fly, as it were, I looked at it later and said ... Hey, how could that sound ?

I made the comments I did on this last issue that you've brought back up now and didn't even think that I may have hurt a very dear brother - because that wasn't in my mind at all. Just that I don't want to see anyone else 'fearful' when looking at current events in light of Prophecy ... he is not fearful of anything at all. It doesn't appear to me at all.

The man has PEACE. So the "don't fear" wasn't even directed at him, but at the issue at hand at the time.

I'm sure he'd forgive either of us. But we both maybe need to keep trying harder and harder to learn how to express ourselves in writing.

I only thought of one other instance of the other side of the coin in this topic.

I hold to obeying the laws of the land and all that was posted about respect too ... but as you mentioned John the Baptist, I also remember Jesus' Words to Herod.

Luk 13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

Luk 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

Yes, to have or learn 'the balance' would be good.

I'll just watch and learn from this thread to see what helps us all in this matter.

Forgiveness is a good thing too.
Peace between us first is also good.

Thank you NLONG.

Re:, on: 2007/6/7 13:54

In the military the first thing you learn is to obey your commanding office unquestioningly. As soon as you step off the bus a DI is in your face and shouting at you at full volume, and you're convinced if you even blink wrong... he's gonna kill you.

The reason they do this is because on the battlefield there isn't time for questions. If you don't obey orders immediately you could cause the death of your buddies and yourself, and possibly innocent civilians.

Military leaders do not serve their men... their men serve them.

However... this is not how the church is to be run. Following leaders unquestioningly leads to deception and abuse. It's not good for the followers, and it's not good for the leaders.

Paul commended the Bereans because they studied the scriptures to see if what they were being taught was in line with scripture. The implication is that when the Bereans came across a teaching, or a teacher who was out of line... they rejected them.

Paul said to "mark and avoid" those who teach false doctrines. Say you've belonged to a church for a few years, but all of a sudden the pastor's teachings swerve off course... what do you do? First thing is you go to him directly. But if he refuses to listen, Paul says "mark and avoid" him. Not follow him.

I've been in churches where some of the older men were more spiritually mature and scripturally knowledgeable than the pastor... I think that's great!

I get challenged in our own house church. Sometimes I'm right, but sometimes I'm not... and I learn from it. And there are some folks in our house church network that I consider to be way beyond me in spiritual maturity. What that does is it keeps me in check. Makes me really study hard when it's my turn to teach.

It's called checks and balances.

Church is not a dictatorship. Nor is it a democracy.

Krispy

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders?, on: 2007/6/7 18:55

Mmmm Quite a difficult one! Really, the whole issue of our reaction to authority, within and outside the Church, is relevant to this thread.

Nearly midnight so will try and come back on it tomorrow some time. It is an important subject I think.

1Tim 5:1 for starters?

Jeannette

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders?

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by eldalon (), on: 2007/6/7 19:16

Hello NLONG,

I certainly say a resounding YES!!!!

2 Timothy 4:2-5 tells us to do just this.

BUT... first and foremost, we must be absolutely certain that the mote has been completely removed from our eyes (Matthew 7:1-5). By doing this, we also conform to John 7:24.

With all the false doctrine and apostasy going on in virtually every church in America... it is a good idea to start seeing who will come out and stand against the ones who cling to the 4 major pillars of apostate Christianity:

1. Unconditional eternal security (Once saved always saved).
2. Tithing
3. The pre-tribulation rapture of the church
4. Israel still being God's chosen people(having a separate covenant with The Father outside of the acceptance of the death, burial and resurrection of The Lord Jesus Christ)

The Scriptures tell of a different truth than the fairy tales of the modern "church".

By the way... since when did going to "church" consist of habitating a building as opposed to gathering with like-minded believers and just talking about Jesus and witnessing to one another? As I remember, this is what that first church did... you know, The Apostles.

Anyhow, enough for now.

May The Lord Jesus Christ bless and preserve you all...

Eldalon

Re:, on: 2007/6/7 19:44

Ah oh, this went off NLONG's topic question ... but that's O.K.. It sure brought out some interesting things.

What NLONG was referring to, is a former thread discussing "leaders of a nation". Like Presidents and all like that.

We're trying to get the balance of that, out of what he posted in his opening post above.

:-)

Re: The Balance., on: 2007/6/8 13:26

NLONG, Knowing 'this' man's words and seeing/hearing him speak via tapes, books, etc. for many years, may I submit to you what I personally feel is The Balance for any Christian.

Forgive the length of url.

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id=16110&forum=40&start=20&viewmode=flat&order=1

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Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2007/6/8 13:58

Paul Rebuke Peter

Galatians 2:11-21

11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. 12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. 14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. 18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

1Ti 5:17 - Show Context

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

And to honour your leaders

this is a fantastic sermon by Carter Conlon

(http://www.timeforrenewal.com/wmedia/040118-1_CC.asx) Carter Conlon on Spiritual Authority

Re:, on: 2007/6/8 14:19

Quote:

-----it is a good idea to start seeing who will come out and stand against the ones who cling to the 4 major pillars of apostate Christianity
:

Wow... thats the first time I've ever heard of the "4 pillars of Apostate Churches" being those things! Usually apostacy is seen as just the opposite.

So... you believe someone can be saved and lose their salvation.

I dont believe in tithing, but dont see it as an apostacy.

Pre-trib is up for debate, always has been. Not something I would consider apostacy.

And you believe in replacement theology.

So basically you're saying that anyone who doesnt agree with **YOU** is apostate.

I think you're in for a surprise when you get to heaven and all those Independent Fundamental Baptists are in line in front of you.

Krispy

Re: - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2007/6/8 14:47

Quote:

-----eldalon wrote:

May The Lord Jesus Christ bless and preserve you all..

Not trying to evoke anger:

But from the first part of your thread it doesn't sound like he can....

That is a strong set of pillars, I hope we can carry this over civilly to a whole new thread

I will now prophecy:

(This thread will soon be locked, just as the Hillary one)

Re:, on: 2007/6/8 14:56

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

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:

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Krispy

Hi Eldalon

I think many, or even most of those on SI, including many of those whose sermons are in the archives, would be "apostate" on one or more of these 4!

Hmmm, let's see:

1. Unconditional eternal security (Once saved always saved): Partly disagree, but wouldn't call it an "apostate" position by any means! Some of my best friends are Calvinists :-D
2. Tithing: Agree with Krispy. I don't believe that tithing is binding on the Church, but find it very strange to have something so comparatively minor called "a pillar of apostate Christianity"
3. The pre-tribulation rapture of the church: I tend towards the post-trib. position, but agree that it's always been controversial. So why should I rob myself of fellowship with these pre-trib "apostates"?
4. Israel still being God's chosen people(having a separate covenant with The Father outside of the acceptance of the d

eath, burial and resurrection of The Lord Jesus Christ): Strongly disagree with you. See my thread on "Time and Eternity" etc.

While the world, as it is now, endures, God still has a purpose for and a promise to physical Israel as well as "spiritual Israel", the Church. Though it doesn't mean we'll meet them in heaven if they continue to reject their Messiah.

So I'm apostate too... Ah well, I've been called worse. ;-)

Jeannette

Re: - posted by NLONG (), on: 2007/6/8 16:01

Please don't hijack this thread. BTW is there a record for how many successive locked threads in a row?

Thanks for all who've contributed! I'm not trying to justify speaking against rulers. Just trying to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders?, on: 2007/6/8 18:03

NLONG,

I think it may be advantageous for you to consider whether Jesus sent "leaders" out into the world, or "servants".

Also, consider whether or not we Christians are "Priests and Priestesses" in the "Order of Melchizedek" who serve the Living God day and night... or if we need "more holy" human intercessors to speak to Him on our behalf.

I don't think the kingdom of God is a carnal "prayer army" pyramid of authority - with generals, commanders, privates, and such.

I think the Kingdom has been arranged so that penitent hookers and thieves are more highly prized, honoured, and rewarded than self-righteous "religionists".

During one of his sermons, Paul Washer asked:

"What is more like God: an Archangel or the bacteria floating around your toilet bowl?"

Someone in the audience answered, "The angel."

"No", he said, "neither the angel nor the bacteria are anything like God. God's not quantitatively bigger or better or higher than you or me or an angel or a bacteria... He's qualitatively DIFFERENT!"

NLONG, when's the last time one of your Christian "leaders" washed your feet as Jesus commanded in John 13?

Jesus never commanded us to be leaders - He commanded us to be servants.

And don't get me started on that Orwellian Churchian doublespeak like "Servant Leaders" or "Worship Leaders". That's like saying "Clean Dirties" or "Bright Darkness"...

But, back to the topic... "YES"... research, pray exhort, correct, and rebuke.

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2007/6/8 23:59

Quote:

-----Like to hear how we balance not speaking ill of our leaders and reproof.

NLONG,

Let me say first that I am not directing this statement at you.

There is a spirit in the world today and sad to say the church as well that seems to hold no respect for those in positions of leadership or authority. This lack of respect spans the whole gamut from children through elderly adults. We see it in toddlers and see parents actually teaching their children disrespect by laughing at them when they act disrespectful. We have become a very irreverent society and though we may justify our motives for being such they are not biblical.

Now there are leaders in the church and there are leaders in the world, there are also brothers and sisters in the Lord so when you talk of reproof you need to specify which you are talking about.

Paul says this about a leader in the church:

Acts 23:5

Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people. Exodus 22:28

When you speak of reproof are you in a position that gives you authority to rebuke.

1 Tim. 5:1

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Jesus says it like this:

Matthew 23:1-3

Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not

You see the problem today is so many feel they have this authority to reprove and if they disagree with a person in authority they speak against them and this is what we are warned against doing.

Now secular leaders are by their position of authority ordained of God and we are warned not to speak evil of them.

Romans 13:1

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.

Now here we must ask the question unless these powers are asking us to do something that is against the Word of God, what gives us the authority to not be in subjection or to reprove them because we may disagree with their policy or standard of morals, remember the higher powers that the word speaks of were not for the most part followers of the Lord. We must be careful and not be self willed in our haste to reprove.

2 Peter 2:10-11

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

I would suggest we pray for those in authority and if we are not in a position to reprove then we leave it to those who are, if you are in the position then I would approach it as one who will receive greater condemnation.

James 3:1

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

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In His Love
pastorfrin

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/6/9 16:06

Hi everyone.

Would like to pick up briefly on something pastorfrin shared...

"We must be careful and not be self willed in our haste to reprove."

Thinking of John the Baptist, as he was mentioned before, this would seem to apply; he spoke with and of the authority of God.

And taking that, I think of what the Lord Jesus said

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Chris

Re: rebuke leaders? - posted by NLONG (), on: 2007/6/11 11:16

Quote:

-----Ephesians 5:3-20: "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, F13 that no fornicator, u nclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty word s, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were onc e darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit* is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 findi ng out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful ev en to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes m anifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." 15 See then that you walk circumsp ectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. "

As a christian, I am to "expose the unfruitful works of darkness" and "walk as a child of light" the fruit of the Spirit thereof being "goodness, righteousness, and truth." I'll admit my comments were fairly fleshly remarks. For that I've appologized . However, I don't believe I was speaking evil, but exposing truth. Exactly what John the Baptist did. There's nothing in th is Ephesians passage that says you can expose darkness, except if its your rulers.

Perhaps we differ so much because you may have a broader or narrower definition of evil speaking. The same exists for many biblical concepts. How about love? God says in Hebrews that everyone he loves he chastens and scourges. Now t hat's God's heart, not man's. Perhaps to me a scourging is not loving. It's what our Lord suffered for me. But, to God it's counted as essential to being His son.

Quote:

-----Hebrews 12:6-8 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, t hen are ye bastards, and not sons."

I agree that we should not speak evil. Titus 3:2 tells us to "speak evil of no man." This is regardless of rulers.
EDIT: By today's standards maybe even Jesus was an evil speaker in his "get thee behind me Satan" rebuke to Peter.

Please expound on this idea of authority to reprove. I'm not sure I've encountered this idea. Though, I guess I don't see in scripture the whole priest-layman system that we have today. I think it's a fraud. Yes, we are to have elders and such, but they are to be "ruling" servants not tyrants (like we have so much today). Peter says we are all kings and priests.

Further, I have a scriptural command if my brother sins against me, I am to rebuke him, if he repents, I am to forgive. Th at says nothing of station.

If I am a Christian, then I have the Holy Spirit dwelling in me. If I have that, then what else do I need in the way of authority?

Also, what made John the Baptist great? By that I mean any greater than any of us. He wasn't superman. Yet, we have a tendency to exalt biblical figures as untouchables. Did they accomplish exceptional things? Yes, but were they ordinary men? Yes. What connects these two truths? Ordinary men have the power to do extraordinary by faith in an extraordinary, living, Almighty God.

Sorry about paraphrased scripture, I don't have time to look them up, but I think you can understand.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed here. It's challenged me and my walk with the Lord!

Blessings!

Re: rebuking anyone., on: 2007/6/11 16:58

NLONG, you've hit the hardest question in the Book here.

We don't quite seem to be able to keep the balance in our minds or able to define the balance between meekness/humility and pride/assumption. We mostly fail at defining these things. We only see them as outward behaviors, rather than as the Bible portrays the people mentioned in the Bible.

That seems to me to be people's largest fear when it comes to any correction in or from The Church. I appreciate that, because I've always been timid by nature and fearful of my own words. I've gone off line 3 times since having a computer for several reasons. I wanted God to work some balance for myself in this area. I needed Him to 'hone' me, so to speak. Whether any of us will ever be perfectly perfect while in the flesh, is up for debate also, but I think, with much prayer and being open to examination from the Lord, The Word and others, we come to a constant state of "trying our words".

Peter was an Apostle - as we all know and know all about his life and God's hand on him, from the beginning ... and Paul, compared to Peter, could have been looked down upon by Peter, if Peter's spirit wasn't right ... yet, we read here what happened between them ... Gal 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

None of us are Pauls or John the Baptists or Jesus, but these things are written for our instruction. The humility and meekness has to be solidly formed within the heart ... which means, that 'words' need not always 'sound meek' but the spirit of the person, or inward nature of that person may be more meek than those who always 'try' to sound meek.

True humility is similar to meekness, in that, it is Biblically seldom possessed by those who have not suffered. Look at Moses, etc.. He was the meekest man, but how did he approach Pharaoh in the end. Or looking at the prophets. The Bible stories are endless to prove your point, but the only caution remains 'within' us. The Lord would just have us to pray and wait on Him, I believe, before we rebuke 'anyone'. We should wait and see if maybe God Himself would not change a person. Only He can tell you when and show you when you're speaking or acting in your own 'intellect' instead of His Holy Spirit.

If we only used Jesus as our example, we'd do better.

Some see Him as a quiet, sort of passive Man, forgetting much of what is written of what He did and said at the Temple

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and to the leaders of it.

We can say, "but we're not Jesus." ... but the Word says, to be like Him ... not trusting in ourselves - but operating in the Spirit, as He did while here. He said, "my words and acts are not my own, but My Father in Heaven gives them to me" .. . did He not hear The Father when turning tables over and making that whip or when speaking to the "white-washed-sepulchers-brood-of-vipers, etc, etc," ?

If you truly feel the words are "from The Father", then try it ... if they're not ... He's faithful to chasten.

God help us all. amen

Re: - posted by NLONG (), on: 2007/6/13 16:01

GRANNIEANNIE -- Yes, Peter and Paul another great example.

I've been thinking alot about this in the last couple days. It seems today people are calling for accountability, accountability and more accountability. However, when they are held accountable (or when others see us hold them accountable) of ten what we get in return in an angry fleshly response--nothing like meekness. I'm not sure where it comes from. I've been rebuked several times with similar results. However, when my anger quickly resolved I found that it was for my greatest benefit. I found repentance and a closer walk with Our Lord. Perhaps its a product of our fiercely independent culture mixed with a large dose of pride.

Often we look at reproof and say that person is being judgmental. However, I think it is with great error we do this (if it is done in a spirit of love). For what is the goal of reproof? To bring a person who is filled with sin into a right relationship with God, to walk as Jesus walked and perhaps eternal judgment (James 5:20).

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by rowdy2 (), on: 2007/6/14 7:36

Any man that I allowed to lead me would be positionally between me and The Head of the Body. We of the Body need rebuke and praise and edifying from each part of The Body Of Christ and the orderly working inside the Body through members guided by the Holy Spirit in each of us is accepted. But always seat the ones who still have a look of pride and a worldly title to back it up in a lower seat.

Eddie

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by LiveforGod (), on: 2007/6/14 19:48

If I may add anything to what has been said, I would say that in the case of a leader that has done something wrong, like preaching something that clearly contradicts the word of God, then by the authority of God and of his word you may rebuke him.

But I have learned that whenever a person is rebukeing somebody else, the rebuker should do it with Love and compassion;and be willing to show that other person with passience what he/she has done wrong. Just to add my view on the topic.

Re: rebuking leaders - posted by LoveHim, on: 2007/6/14 20:18

nlong, a great question indeed..

can we or should we rebuke leaders? a better question would be, should we correct and rebuke brothers and sisters in the Lord? yes,if we do it in a spirit of love and prayer. because what is the motive of doing such a thing?? to help them walk in truth and obedience to God and His Word. i guess i don't get the idea that some people get a "position" and then they are virtually uncorrectable.. God's kingdom is completely opposite of this present system..we are called to love and serve one another..

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called to himself and said to them. "you know that those who are considered rulers over the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

Mark 10:43 yet it shall not be so among you: but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

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Re: - posted by poet (), on: 2007/6/14 20:39

true story, while having coffee with a brother in christ we got on the topic of the president and things going on in the middle east and he got very negative towards our president.. mr Bush.
I said dont you pray for him? and he said no! I dont. hhhmmmm.
yes the spirit of some people are rebellious towards leaders, rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.
Do we rebuke leaders, the answer is yes, but only in the right spirit and with love and in the intention of winning back a brother who has fallen into sin.
Lets pray for our leaders, then maby God will give us godly ones for a change. :-)

Re: Are we as Christians allowed to rebuke our leaders? - posted by rowdy2 (), on: 2007/6/15 7:40

Re: rebuking leaders
nlong, a great question indeed..
Phil, a great answer indeed..

The words Phil posted are the words that separate Christians from mens traditions.

Mark 10:

But Jesus called to himself and said to them. "you know that those who are considered rulers over the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them yet it shall not be so among you: but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

We are to love and be charitable to everyone and we will be following The Word of God not the traditions of men.

Charity >helping those in need.
charity begins at home a person's first responsibility is for the needs of their own family and friends.

Charity >tolerance in judging others

Eddie