

Articles and Sermons :: Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan**Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/12/4 15:15**

This is a subject with incredible, potential problems and difficulties. The Bible teaches very strongly about obeying authorities over us. The entire kingdom of God is meant to function in an orderly manner under God's plan of authority. But there is an extreme teaching on submission to leaders in authority, wives to husbands, children to parents, and political or religious leaders to others that can be dangerous, unless we balance it with the fact that each individual must know that he is also responsible to God, His law and His Word. The balance must be kept between submission and individual guidance.

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV) says, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted." First Thessalonians 5:12 (NIV) says, "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the LORD and who admonish you." Clearly God's plan is that we live in submission to God-given authority. Watchman Nee, in his book *Spiritual Authority*, specifically states that in Scripture, rebellion, either passive or active, is sin.

Pay attention. Lucifer became a devil. He was not created a devil. In fact, he began as the most amazing, beautiful arch angel, the highest of all angels created by God. But he became the devil as a result of rebellion and insubordination. His pride led him to step out from under God's authority and set himself up as ruler.

Re: Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/4 17:59

First of all, I want to thank brother Greg for this site as it has been a tremendous blessing to my walk. From Ravenhill, Reidhead, Wilkerson, Washer, Poonen and others, the Lord has used much of the preaching and teaching to awaken and revive me in many ways for which I am thankful.

Now regarding the subject at hand, I understand that those who moderate this site and the vast majority of Christians who visit it, have similar views on the topic of church government or leadership and authority in the Church.

What I mean is that it seems that most Christians believe in the top down, hierarchical structure of having one man (the pastor/presbyter/overseer) in absolute authority over a local church, and everyone else under him in submission to his plans for the church.

The vast majority of the gifted preachers promoted on this site hold to this view of church government.

In this hierarchical structure there is a clergy-laity dichotomy. That is, the teaching and belief that there is a caste of certain gifted ministers (the clergy) who are highly distinct and superior to the rest of believers in the Church (the laity).

According to that view only that certain caste of ministers are allowed certain privileges in the Church, privileges such as teaching/preaching, administering the Lord's Supper, baptizing, making decisions regarding ministries, leading in music, etc.

As some of you know, I along with others who have been posting recently on this subject, disagree with that type of church government or authority. We believe that there does not exist a clergy-laity dichotomy today in the eyes of God, for we are all the laity (people of God) and ministers (a royal priesthood).

We view the roles of pastors/elders as functional roles as opposed to official or professional and authoritarian. Thus we encourage and exhort mutual submissiveness, servanthood and humility within the Body as we believe our Lord teaches in the Gospels.

For many years I accepted the clergy-laity division as being true. Looking back I perceive that I was under much restriction and bondage in my walk with Christ.

For example, I remember having a passion and zeal to preach the biblical gospel to the lost on the streets. Yet I found m

myself having to go out and minister without the blessing or approval of the senior pastor of my church.

That is because he did not approve of the full biblical gospel but instead was used to a watered-down feel good message that leaves out God's severity and the need for repentance. And he, along with most churches, did not approve of open air preaching which I am convinced is clearly biblical and needful.

About two years ago I began to question much of the structure, traditions, and authority within most churches. And I believe the Lord opened my eyes to see the unbiblical basis for this clergy-laity division and system.

So what is my point in all this? Just wanted to share my heart with you all, and encourage and exhort all to consider and look into these things prayerfully and seriously if you have not done so.

On a side note, I do not have any grudges against pastors, brothers or sisters who are part of a traditional church setting. My only grief and grudge is with that "system" of church government which I believe has hindered the Church for centuries. I see my brothers and sisters who are under the clergy-laity structure as victims who are hindered and held captive to traditions and systems of men.

My hope and prayer here regarding this is that we would all be able to discuss and share our convictions in the spirit of grace, humility and respect, and if need be, to agree to disagree respectfully.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/12/4 20:59

Quote:
-----On a side note, I do not have any grudges against pastors, brothers or sisters who are part of a traditional church setting. My only grief and grudge is with that "system" of church government which I believe has hindered the Church for centuries. I see my brothers and sisters who are under the clergy-laity structure as victims who are hindered and held captive to traditions and systems of men.

Brother,

Thank you for sharing your heart with us. I agree there is a lack of equipping and releasing the body of Christ in the work of ministry. But in Scripture in the New Testament there are "many" references to those that are honored above the rest, overseers, elders, deacons, who labor hard in the word, prayer, good deeds. One's that watch out for the souls of others etc. I feel it is very important to recognize "leadership" in the body of Christ. "First of all apostles." But the apostles will suffer more than others, therefore in the kingdom of God true leadership is servanthood. This is not clearly exhibited in modern churches much.

So I agree with you pointing out the lack in the current traditional settings but let us not throw out the baby with the bath water. I believe there is clear biblical reference and support for biblical servanthood leadership and authority in the body of Christ.

May God start to lead the church into the true biblical role of leadership that serves, gives, goes under, prefers other before themselves, type of elders, apostles, pastors, etc.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. So we can all at least begin to agree with this! :)

Re: , on: 2010/12/4 21:07

Is Jesus' example to us clear enough to recognize that leader/follower and complete willful submission are part and parcel to the way God has established for the way things to operate rightly?

Sadly, many people placed in positions of authority wield their own (organisation's) dictates.
Is this pleasing God?

Worse are those who think that just because things don't go according to the way they consider it should be, they become stubborn fools in the process of seeking their own way.
Is this pleasing God?

Consider the root word from which we get the word Protestant: protest.

The so-called (organizational) 'church' we see today and many who participate are by second nature schismatics. Horribly, those who thought at one time that they would be different, and true to "the faith once and for all time established", through generational compromise and inconsistency have fallen into the very errors that they rebelled from in the first place. Rather than in all sincerity serving the Lord with clean hands from pure heart, we find more and more people with more and more problems ending in failures and ultimately destruction. The fruit borne clearly shows that though they say they know God . . . REALLY He never knew them. . . "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof."

This all results

--beginning with the orthodox Roman Catholics, through the breakdown of Protestantism even to the most individualistic of home churches--
through comparing ourselves with ourselves.

The structures and organizational model we see today started when men took God's authority as their own and lorded their dictates over the masses. Church government became no different from the manner used to govern earthly kingdoms.

It's amusing to hear others talk about heaven and rewards after God's judgement seat because 99.9% of the time these ideologies are based on structure, form, and dogma relative to this present age.

Is this what the kingdom of God on earth (established in heaven) will be like?

Let's look at what Paul says:

"...when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but:
be filled with the Spirit,
addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Eph. 5.13-21 (ESV)

How can anybody say they are obeying God in rebellion to what has been established by God in the first place?

How can anyone be being filled with the Spirit speaking their own mind (from which THEIR OWN thoughts and concerns stem)?

How can anyone give thanks always and for everything to our Father in the purpose, authority, and power of the Lord Jesus Christ going their own way doing what seems right in their own eyes?

How does any person revere Christ in submission to one another by walking in rebellion?

". . . Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. . ."

I Sam 15.22c-23b (NKJV)

Who will be called great in the kingdom of God?

He who does and teaches Torah. (Mt. 5.19)

Who will be greatest in God's soon fully manifested kingdom?

see what Jesus says:

" Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest.

But He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles dominate them, and those who have authority over them are called benefactors. But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving. For who is greater, the one at the table or the one serving? Isn't it the one at the table? But I am among you as the One who serves. You are the ones who stood by Me in My trials. I bestow on you a kingdom, I just as My Father bestowed one on Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom.

Lk. 22.24-30b (HCSB)

". . . be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

I Pet. 5.5c-7 (NASB)

Oh yeah,
we can go our own way
but
not without a price to pay:
in the here and now,
and on judgement day.

"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'
Mt. 7.22-23 (NASB)

Looking forward to the day when
the Prince of peace shall rule all nations
with a rod of iron,

gregg

p.s. If we do not get this right now, we can't expect to have a chance to do it then--> Mt. 7.23

edit: misnumbering of references, grammar, spelling, and an added word for clarity

Re: Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/4 22:39

Over the years I have noticed a growing spiritual deception which inculcates people into spiritualizing, and scripturally justifying the gainsaying of Korah.

I have seen authority abused as well, but K.P. and Greg are spot on here methinks.

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." -Luke 10:18

This verse should be underlined, outlined, highlighted, read, re-read, adopted, meditated on, and utterly imbibed by anyone who claims to follow Christ.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 9:50

This is another really good sermon on spiritual authority. It is really long and Stephen has a tendency to repeat himself. But it is so worth listening to. It has been a while since I did, but I think it goes well with this article, and other general themes being discussed here the last few days.

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=949>

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/12/5 9:52

Amen brother.

Here is the link to the sermon with description:

A Look At Authority 1: Spiritual & False by Stephen Kaung

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=949>

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 10:00

Woops, that was the link I meant to give, thanks.

Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2010/12/5 10:06

Quote:
-----This is another really good sermon on spiritual authority. It is really long and Stephen has a tendency to repeat himself. But it is so worth listening to. It has been a while since I did, but I think it goes well with this article, and other general themes being discussed here the last few days.

Thank you brothers! I am listening now.

Re: Authority and praying and SI - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 11:56

There is something I also want to say pertaining to what has been addressed these last few days around here.

I believe that when the moderators make rules about how things should operate here on this website, and you are requested to "pray" before you post, and if you post in a spirit contrary to how the moderators have asked you to post, and you think that just because you prayed and "felt" as if God gave you the OK, and yet you ended up posting contrary to the requested Spirit. You are not posting according to the Spirit. You are posting according to the flesh, every time without fail.

I believe that God is so concerned about authority, and our ability to willingly submit to it on a personal level, (I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT ENFORCING IT FROM THE TOP DOWN, but what I am talking about is humbling yourself unto death

h just like Jesus did, and considering those above you and those below you better than yourself) that God will never ever give you the OK to say something contrary to the Spirit of how the Moderators have requested you to speak. Because God himself, via the Holy Spirit would be instructing you to be rebellious. And rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

If you think that there are people in error within the leadership the bible tells you very clearly not to rebuke an elder, however there is nothing that says that you cannot privately submit your concerns to them in humility. Though SI is not a church, it is a tool for the church to use. And if that tool is always trying to dismantle itself, it will not be easy to use when trying to dismantle the constructs of the enemy.

To publicly question, and to sarcastically vituperate the authorities of SI, or anywhere for that matter, is probably going to be a reflection of how you treat all authority in your life. As a result, God will never give you any authority anywhere in the body of Christ. Any authority you may have will be that which is obtained out of rebellion and carnality, and no matter how doctrinally correct of an individual you may be, you will reap the fruit which you have sown. When I say "authority in the body of Christ," I do not mean authority in a worldly sense. I mean authority to speak to issues, authority that is spiritual, and not authority that is carnal or worldly. The church is not the military, nor is it a corporation. So please do not assume that my words mean something other than what would apply in a Godly sense.

I have seen this both here, and lots in real life. It is a messy business. Leaders, and younger brothers alike can become like Diotrephes or like Demas. And our father in the faith Paul said, "For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

I am going to give an example of what I mean and how this has been applied to my life since I started posting on these forums.

By nature I am an incredibly sarcastic individual, I used to be sarcastic in an anarchistic way towards all forms of authority. I am still sarcastic, but my sarcasm is far more "sanctified" than it used to be. Now it is usually a self-deprecating brand of sarcasm. With the occasion to be sarcastic towards others some times.

However, I recognize the spirit in which the moderators here request me to speak and I have noticed by the way they talk, and the way they have laid out their rules that I suspect they do not appreciate sarcasm very much. As a result I have never once that I can recall spoken in a sarcastic fashion. If I have it was certainly accidental. I have deleted hundreds of posts that I started to write that had a flippancy of sarcasm in them. This is so good for me because it crucifies my tongue to the cross, and it has even helped me in my marriage and in my family life with the believers I fellowship with in "real life."

I have some very direct examples that I am thinking of where I see people going against the spirit and rule of this forum, but I think it is better if people just pray and ask the Lord with humility to give them light on their own hearts that they may be better servants everywhere they are in life.

I really hope and pray that this is taken and received in the same spirit in which it was spoken. There are many brothers and sisters here that I cannot wait to meet some day.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2010/12/5 12:36

I really appreciate your post Alreadymind. I appreciate also the spirit in which it was written.

If you think about it, we are all under some form of authority, whether it be spiritual or governmental. The reason we find it so natural to despise submission to this authority is due to the wretched adamic pull in all of us which endeavors to place "self" above all else in the universe.

In the physical, we submit to governmental authorities because the repercussions for not doing so is immediate. We pay taxes (in the United States) not because we want to, but because of the IRS getting involved and making our lives miserable if we don't. The natural man therefore complies (albeit grudgingly) because of a natural threat. The spiritual man, however, submits and pays his taxes because God's Word instructs us to pay our taxes. There is a huge difference between the natural man and the spiritual; the rebellion in the natural man to not pay taxes is never mortified but rather caged by the threat of the governmental sword. The spiritual man, however, actually puts his adamic non-submissive nature to death by the Holy Spirit because he has God's word to stand upon. If God decrees that we should pay taxes to Caesar, it is easy to submit if you love Him more than money and are willing to call upon His grace for empowerment to obey.

What am I getting at. The natural forum member (including myself and the other mods - we are only men) here is often driven by his or her nature to post articles and thoughts and fellowship with other believers. But this highway we travel here also has a governmental authority over it, regulating the "speed limit" so to speak, for the safety of other passengers. When a police officer pulls a person over, it is usually because some safety rule was violated: illegal lane change, excessive speed, running a red light, failure to yield, etc. There are reasons these laws are in place, even if the motorist is young and doesn't quite understand what the big deal is.

Most people slow down when they see a police officer; this is not due to the mortification of their rebellion to traffic laws, but out of fear of the reprisal if pulled over. True submission is going the speed limit even when there is no cop, not because of reprisals but because it is the law that God put on the roads through man.

When we are in here, if we always keep in mind that the authority here is not of man but God's own precepts for forum etiquette to benefit everyone's safety, we will find it a joy to submit. It is only when we question, "Has God truly said.." where we arouse the flesh by thinking for ourselves in an effort to elevate our own assertions. This is where we begin to get into trouble, and if it is traced back to its genesis, we always find unmortified pride as the culprit. The offender will not submit to the law, because the drive to promote self temporarily outweighs the fear of reprisal.

If we seek God for empowerment to submit, He will immediately give us wisdom, strength, and peace. Submission to authority is so very near to God's heart I believe: it was the fulcrum of Satan's fall from heaven, Man's expulsion from the garden, and Christ's acceptance of the Crucifixion. Those who will not submit, have an internal missfire which will eventually bleed out and bring death to themselves and everything they touch, whereas those who submit in the spirit ultimately bring abundant life to themselves and others.

Re: - posted by learn (), on: 2010/12/5 12:59

I believe the key to authority/submission including how we post is remembering the bible verses that teaches us how we should conduct ourselves, how we are suppose to think, how we should help our brethren not to fall for false beliefs etc. That's my 2 cents.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2010/12/5 13:04

Oracio said:

I see my brothers and sisters who are under the clergy-laity structure as victims who are hindered and held captive to traditions and systems of men.

In Love, I would say that is a very broad statement, how can "we" possibly know how God is using a person or persons in Church? In our eyes, they may look like they are being held captive, but we also must remember, God's timing from our timing, is totally different. Is it possible, he has someone in the Church for maybe 30 years or more, that may look like they are spinning their wheels, or in your words, being held captive, but God is just not finished with them yet?. You know, I have always had a issue with Christians trying to figure out God, please be very, very careful about what you might see, because your watching from the flesh, while God is working in the spirit, statements like the one above, "could" undermine "GODS" work in the Church.

God Bless
Brother Bill

Re: Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan, on: 2010/12/5 13:12

Quote:
-----This is a subject with incredible, potential problems and difficulties. The Bible teaches very strongly about obeying authorities over us. The entire kingdom of God is meant to function in an orderly manner under God's plan of authority.

But

there is an extreme teaching on submission to leaders in authority, wives to husbands, children to parents, and political or religious leaders to others that can be

dangerous, unless we balance it with the fact that each individual must know that he is also responsible to God, His law and His Word.

The balance must be kept between submission and individual guidance.

I have the books by Brother Yohannan and respect him and appreciate that he has warned us here in this excerpt of the "dangers" of not maintaining a balance.

These are perilous times that we are living in.

Could anyone ever count the number of TV ministers, radio personalities, fellowships- such as house churches or any "church" for that matter, etc 'ministries'?

On the internet as well, we've all seen those claiming to be prophets or apostles or whatever they claim for themselves and all seem to have a following.

I take Brother Yohannan's warning seriously.

If even "deacons" must be "first Proved" (1Tim 3:10) and be of sound doctrine and a good spirit and not found in immorality, not full of themselves and so forth, then how much more those who desire to have The Body of Christ submit to them. No one should 'desire' That in the first place, because "leaders are called to be servants, who wash feet".

The Apostle's calling consisted of - First - spreading the Gospel - Secondly, watching over the Body, that each fellowship's doctrine remain Pure and that there would be no immorality in the church.

This, from Paul, is how we are to judge who we are to submit to. Doctrine and moral purity.

Paul, John, Peter or any other true apostle would only rebuke each church they wrote to (or excommunicate a member) for unsound doctrine or immorality.

Some of us remember many abuses of power, in the history of The Church and we are seeing now, more than ever, since the Internet was birthed, the increase of self-proclaimed ministers - or whatever they proclaim themselves to be - just by purchasing a URL.

The Apostle Paul - having written the Pastoral Epistles, has set our best example of true authority from GOD, Himself and Jesus warned us enough times as well of being ever so careful that we are not following false apostles, prophets, and so on.

I do have a Pastor btw and call him "Admiral". I love him dearly because of his humility over his strength & position. He is very much like David Wilkerson, for which I am truly thankful, filled with respect and I Bless GOD for knowing the true from the counterfeit because of his humility and kindness --- yet he would be the first to say - "Follow GOD - Trust His Spirit - because 'any' man can fall and take many down with him."

Many will come in His Name...

Re: , on: 2010/12/5 13:42

Oh, I meant to add the reason I call my pastor "Admiral".

Because, well, this part I have never told him, but as he came down a hallway toward me one day, a few years ago, I had a "vision" (for the lack of a better word) - seeing him in "sll white", and it came from my mouth without my own thinking "Good Morning Admiral", so I've greeted him that way ever since....

but - the LORD showed me shortly after 'why' I had that 'vision'.

Because a leader of a fellow-SHIP 'can be' the one who 'keeps' the "ship" - either getting it/them Home to safety or sinking the whole of it.

Off-topic - I feel to recommend the book "Valley of Vision" - Puritan's Prayers. Can be read in part at OldPaths.

Edit: Correction - 'The Valley of Vision' excerpts are at OldLandmarks.

Re: Paul - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 19:06

Quote:
-----Most people slow down when they see a police officer; this is not due to the mortification of their rebellion to traffic laws, but out of fear of the reprisal if pulled over. True submission is going the speed limit even when there is no cop, not because of reprisals but because it is the law that God put on the roads through man.

Amen. This is integrity at its core. This is total mortification. Great analogy.

Another good example of how we view and respond to authority could be as follows:

I go to a friend, or a brother and sister's house to enjoy some hospitality and fellowship. The first thing I do when I go into that home is that I look to see if there are shoes in a pile in the entry way. Usually if I see that, it means they don't want people walking in their home with shoes on. How I respond to that pile of shoes will speak volumes about either, my humility, or my pride. Either, I will be sensitive to this family's authority (because I am coming under their roof) and I will take off my shoes, or I will pretend I did not see it, and walk right in.

If you come into a forum, and you see a pile of shoes on the floor, take your shoes off too. It is only wisdom. It does not matter how much you disagree or agree with the value of it.

Here is another question I ask myself every time I write on this forum, and it is not even a rule they have stated. "If my pastor's were to read what I wrote, would they say Amen? Or would they have words with me?" If they would be riled, or misrepresented by my words, there may be a chance that Jesus, or the moderators here would not be too happy either.

Re: One last thing - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 19:16

At the risk of "being pedantic," as philologos once said in another thread, there is one more sermon on here that speaks to these issues so well. It is "The Way of Cain," by Zac Poonen.

I can honestly say that this sermon changed my life. It was not just some sermon I nodded my head to and said some collegiate pious comment about. It rocked my world, it revealed the root of Cain in me. It broke me of these kinds of attitudes.

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=8162&commentView=itemComments>

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for this. I go back and listen to it every now and then just to see if I am getting it still. May God bless richly anyone whom has ears to hear...

Re: , on: 2010/12/5 19:23

I'm not quite sure how far we can take the "living room" analogy with the "Fellowshipping of The Body of Christ".

I knew of some house churches that different friends were invited to.

They too were the type who loved peace and believed in being, not only polite guests but very loving as well.

Upon entering the house, they witnessed abuse of the others there. What were they to do in a case such as that? And they being timid folks as well.

I believe our only way to picture Any type 'fellowship' is by our Only Rule Book. There is no other analogy on earth that fits His rules for the true gathering of the Saints.

For every situation that arises - there is ample Scripture.

Jesus Himself would be (and was) considered rude I believe, in some households.

I'm praying that we care more about WWJD? than what anyone else thinks. That would be revival to me. I pray that way.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/5 19:28

You may be right, analogies are always a poor substitute for the word of God. It is why I do not use them often.

Re: - posted by MeriBeth (), on: 2010/12/5 20:20

I listen to this one (The way of Cain) a lot too. Great Sermon!!!

Zac Poonen and Leonard Ravenhill speak a lot about church elders. Sure makes a world of difference when they are the most humble godly men in the church. When they are submitting to Jesus through the Holy Spirit ... the church will worship like Able not Cain. Not that I have seen that personally but I do know what it looks like when the most powerful and rich are picked and the church worships like Cain. Jude tells of this!

When you have men of honor it is so easy to submit. They earn your trust and submission by walking in the Truth. I had the greatest father in the world. Today in my 40's I would jump to the moon if he said jump. I sure wish we had more men like this as pastors and elders. We just need a massive baptism of fire in the church!

Re: Serious - posted by Aprlshws, on: 2010/12/6 6:37

Could use some input on this please on government what if you truly believed someone was the Antichrist in a top government position and felt impelled to warn others that it is true is this not submitting to authority and because I'm very vocal about it.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/6 10:01

One general rule to go by all of your days. Obey all authority just so long as you are not disobeying God when you do so. We obey God, fundamentally, in our moral conduct. If an anti-christ is telling you to do something that you know Jesus would hate, then you are not to do it.

I will not overtly participate in a discussion where someone thinks someone is "the" anti-christ. Until I see someone slaughter a pig in a temple, I would not be convinced. Nor until I saw two witnesses breathing fire. However, that is just where my eschatology is.

Remember in 1 John it says that "Many anti-christs have gone out into the world." Our job is to test the spirits. I have heard way to many people say that "x" is "the." Just obey so long as you know you are not breaking any of God's laws. Also, be a little cautious about saying someone who is not "the" anti-christ, "is" to anyone as you run the risk of discrediting your faith to someone if you are wrong, and that person turns out to just be another pawn leading that direction. There have been many thousands of Anti-Christ's in the world since the time of Christ.

Read early church history and you will see how lots of early believers balanced obeying these anti-christs in Rome, and how they did not obey them. The book of Acts gives you good examples of what to obey and what not to obey as well.

There is a really good audio book on here under the audio book section called, "The Martyr's of the Catacombs." Though I think the book is probably fiction, it is certainly based on how things went down for Roman believers. It is both inspirational and also a good tie in to this topic.

Here is the link to that audio book:

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=883>

It is a fairly short book, I think I have listened to it like three or so times and it only took about six or seven hours to complete.

lete.

Re: Who is the Head of every man?, on: 2010/12/6 13:02

Some of my ideas on the subject here.

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,
22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
23 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth.
"Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.".....2Corinthians 1.

Firstly the concept of authority in the body always came from a position below, not above, as "The Pastor", or "Leader" is seen as a CEO, or Master of Ceremonies. Jesus said; The Shepherds knew that the saints stood by their OWN faith, not theirs.

24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors'."

26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves

27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves."

Is the spirit of leadership one that sees itself on top, dictating the flow of interactions? ..or below, as a servant to the interactions, displaying the Spirit of Christ? No man is to have a dominion over the faith of another. A true Pastor will edify, and serve, and will not seek to benefit from his position of authority, but help others find the joy of submitting to the Lordship of Christ.

There is no such thing as a singular Pastor with "elders" in the New testament. There was always a body of elders, plural, that were in mutual submission to one another. The function of this authority of the body of elders was to:

1. Feed the body of Christ.*
 2. Protect the body of Christ. *
 3. Manifest the Lordship of Christ Jesus in each and every situation.
- *{ there were some instances of extra-local ministries; generally apostolic}

Let us not forget that the true Authority in the church must be Jesus Himself. The Elders see to it that the Holy Spirit in the church is not quenched; that the body edifies itself in love, and is well fed and protected. They are always plural and equal. When you see one man ruling, usually with an hierarchy of underlings, you see error, according to the New Testament.

Are we to submit to those who have the rule over us, out of the virtue of being ordained Shepherds? Yes, for our own good...but are these men dictators of their own doctrines and ideas?...and should we submit to that?

Of course not. Being in authority does not mean that others submit to your ideas and thinking. If the larger issues, the primary doctrines of Christ...The blood, the new birth, the resurrection, and the Lordship of Jesus are violated in spirit, then Yes, this must be confronted. Even the great Peter, the chief Jewish apostle, had erroneous doctrines and ideas, and tried to dictate them to others.

Galatians 2

11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray" ...

Was Paul rebellious? was he submitting? The point is, our first and last submission must be to the TRUTH, and the TRUTH is a person....God himself. This and only this is where true faith is born.

They are not Hired, Paid Professional ministries ; the one man Pastor, is not to be found in the New Testament, as are those who demand to make a living upon the back of the church. Jesus accepted support, as did Paul, but did not demand it. Read Acts 20 to see Paul's heart about being a Father, who worked day and night to support himself and the men with him in the mission at Ephesus.

Also, this must be said. The part of sermonindex addressed here is the Forum part. Let's look at it as such. It is not a church....it is more an interactive Opinion/Editorial site, ...a forum where many issues may be discussed.

As I see it, Greg and Paul and HmmHmm MUST maintain the bonds of Peace, and things MUST be done decently and in order. There Must be civility, and a sense of mutual honor and deference; and with an open forum, open to everyone in the WORLD with computer access.

Well...do you think that there may be the demonic and immature that would be used to bring harm, confusion and strife? SI has proven to be one of the best run Christian sites on the web.

But, it is not a church. You really do not get to test the fruit of anyone here. You do not know them, and their love, or lack of it, their pride, or lack of it, or their perceptions of themselves.

...but generally, SI forum is a world of ideas, and opinions...and people have PERSONA'S...Ideas about themselves, sometimes perceived through an attitude of self importance separated from real function .

It is a web site...with typed ideas and letters addressing the issue at hand; or posting ideas and letters of perceived relevance. It is Christian, and as I said, must be regulated and filtered or as the rest of earth left alone, will degenerate into chaos.

This is where the authority of the moderators come in. There has to be differing opinions....it's not about intellectual or ideological conformity, IS IT? It shouldn't be. We all differ in some ways, in our thinking and perception of the truth, and the church.

It's kind of like an interactive cyber bible college, and the forums are the OP/ED class, where we can interact. I think it is wonderful, and generally well run, with few exceptions. Authority and submission must be put in perspective.

It is always manifested in a Godly way with Fruit; even the holy fruit of humility, love, graciousness etc., and the shepherd heart. It is much different than the CEO of a business, or the warden of a prison.

Freedom to disagree is the mark of liberty...and we are ALL equal brothers and sisters...EQUAL...and we all have a ministry...and input...in the true church.....and we are ALL honored equally also.

There must be order and the edification of the Holy Spirit, or what good is anything here? Remember though, this is not the real world, where your ideas about yourself are confronted by reality. Have you learned to Love with God. I'm learning, at best.

If you want to find out how much growth, how much faith you really possess, go and give it away, one on one. All of the New Testament reeks of this truth, from Jesus, Phillip, Stephan, Paul, and all of the apostles. Don't shelter yourself behind a pulpit, or a book, or a keyboard.

Try the local jail, or skid row, where you can give the Jesus that is you away. Do it alone; just you, and then you can gauge how much life is really coming from you. Have you ever led anyone to Jesus? ..seen Jesus heal through you, one on one? Brought comfort to the mourning, the broken hearted, in a manifest way? Cast out devils to the tormented?

This is what Jesus said for all of us to do...and to make real disciples. I've sat in the ivory towers, and have crashed down a time or two. It was good for me....but the greatest thing in my life has been to submit to the Authority that has transf

remed me, however so little, to become a son of God, and do these things.

We must look at authority and submission in these terms, or in my opinion, we are missing the intent of our Creator. The Kingdom is His, and do not give your crown away by thinking that another must run it.

He is highly capable Himself. The question may be, do you want to save your perceptions of yourself and your way and life, or do you want to lose them, unto Him? This is the idea of authority and submission.

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/6 14:39

Ack, Tom and I both just noticed that the only time I have ever discussed the issue of Anti-Christ on this forum was my 66th post. Little bit creepy.

Re: Authority and Submission by K.P. Yohannan, on: 2010/12/6 15:48

Hi Areadymind,

You've said a couple of things upon which I would like to comment. I hope that's okay.

Quote:
-----If you think that there are people in error within the leadership the bible tells you very clearly not to rebuke an elder, however there is nothing that says that you cannot privately submit your concerns to them in humility.

Is this really what the New Testament states? Here are my reasons for suggesting it is not quite as simple as you made out.

There seems to be an assumption that an 'elder' cannot be 'wrong'. Yet, this is not what many of us have experienced. I agree, of course, that ideally eldership is submitted to Christ - living in the Spirit - causing no desire for 'rebuking', by flock-members. Yet what Paul said here, acknowledged there may be a need to speak to an elder, and took into account the difference in age between Timothy and that person.

1 Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat as a father; the younger men as brethren;

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

I am grateful Paul included this, as if an elder is behaving immorally or blasphemously, or committing offences against brethren, sisters, or civil law, certainly they should be stopped. No-one should excuse them from the requirement to be 'irreproachable'.

This sounds similar to Jesus' teaching beginning in Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

A great deal of Jesus teaching used the word 'brother' or 'brethren'. There should be no difference between us, in this respect, as Christians.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

This last verse is quite serious. It seems a Jew would know how to behave towards a 'heathen man' and 'a publican'. These days, we don't like to go to this extreme of obeying Him, perhaps. There is a tendency to 'stay friends' without having clarified the terms, or, to not stay friends but without having tried to bring about reconciliation. It seems to be a minefield.

field that Christians have trouble negotiating. Yet the strong implication is that these are 'spiritual' matters, as you pointed out.

Peter, also, wrote:

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lieth in wait, and their damnation slumbereth not.

I put it to you, that 'many shall follow their pernicious ways', suggests false brethren may be holding a position of authority or power, which attracts such a response. We do need to be very careful who we believe and how we follow.

Quote:
-----To publicly question, and to sarcastically vituperate the authorities of SI, or anywhere for that matter, is probably going to be a reflection of how you treat all authority in your life. As a result, God will never give you any authority anywhere in the body of Christ. Any authority you may have will be that which is obtained out of rebellion and carnality, and no matter how doctrinally correct of an individual you may be, you will reap the fruit which you have sown. When I say "authority in the body of Christ," I do not mean authority in a worldly sense. I mean authority to speak to issues, authority that is spiritual, and not authority that is carnal or worldly. The church is not the military, nor is it a corporation. So please do not assume that my words mean something other than what would apply in a Godly sense.

I note your confession of a tendency to sarcasm, yet removing it from the above paragraph seems to make a sweeping generalisation not warranted by scripture.

There are many different kinds of question in the Bible. Yes, some are used for dramatic, or ironic, or satirical, or rhetorical effect, and probably we can all work out which these are. But there are many other questions from God to man, from man to God, and between men, which are addressed for the most part with a childlike honesty, or, an appreciation on God's side of the difficulty man has in grasping His thought without His help.

I can remember only two, though there may be more, when a question was treated as a challenge to the word of God.

Matthew 21:23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Matthew 21:27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Luke 1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. 19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. 20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

I just wanted to share these thoughts. I hope they are not interpreted as a challenge to legitimate authority in God, as that would not be my intention.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/6 18:03

MrBillPro said:

"Oracio said:

I see my brothers and sisters who are under the clergy-laity structure as victims who are hindered and held captive to traditions and systems of men.

In Love, I would say that is a very broad statement, how can "we" possibly know how God is using a person or persons in Church? In our eyes, they may look like they are being held captive, but we also must remember, God's timing from our t

iming, is totally different. Is it possible, he has someone in the Church for maybe 30 years or more, that may look like they are spinning their wheels, or in your words, being held captive, but God is just not finished with them yet?. You know, I have always had a issue with Christians trying to figure out God, please be very, very careful about what you might see, because your watching from the flesh, while God is working in the spirit, statements like the one above, "could" undermine "GODS" work in the Church.

God Bless
Brother Bill"

Brother, I think you may have misunderstood what I meant in the quote you pointed out. I did not mean to say that every Christian under the clergy-laity structure is "spinning their wheels" as you say. What I meant was that the clergy-laity structure hinders and restricts God's people from coming into the fullness of the freedom that is in Christ. I would be a fool to say that God is not working in the clergy-laity structure. I'm just saying its not His best.

With regard to the original post by Greg, I think I misunderstood the motive behind it. I thought it was directed toward those of us who disagree with the clergy-laity structure.

But it seems to me now that it was meant to be an admonition concerning this website and forum.

In that regard, I completely understand the need for the moderators to be very cautious and restrictive in some ways. I see this site and forum as much different than a church setting, as BrotherTom pointed out.

Re: Alive - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/12/6 23:27

I will respond Alive, but it may be a while.