

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



A | D | V | A | N | C | E | D
B | I | B | L | I | C | A | L C | O | U | R | S | E
Spiritual Authority and Submission

I DEFINED

- ◆ Authority – power, right to enforce obedience, delegated power.
- ◆ Submission – to yield to power or authority, accept without resistance to authority, attitude of heart and unconditional.

II AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION ARE A PART OF LIFE

- ◆ “I am going.”
- ◆ “I can’t accept that.”
- ◆ To function, we must understand authority and submission – because we don’t understand this we often: -
 - fail
 - disobey
 - are defeated
- ◆ Human authority (believers and unbelievers)
- ◆ Spiritual authority (believers)

III ONLY WHEN WE LEARN HOW TO SUBMIT
CAN WE EVER EXERCISE AUTHORITY!

- ◆ Luke 7:8, “*For I myself am a man under authority*” – basis for true authority is submission.
- ◆ We do not obey those in authority because they are, in our perception, the right person, but because they are in authority. (Position not the Person).
- ◆ All authority ultimately stems from God Himself. Romans 13:1-5, “... *for there is no authority except from God.*”

IV ILLUSTRATIONS: AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION

- ◆ Enforced: -
 - traffic laws
 - government
 - police (2 Timothy 2:1 & Romans 13:2 & 4)
 - army (Matthew 8:9)
 - teachers
 - parents (Ephesians 6:1-3)
 - lecturer
- ◆ Invited: -
 - wives to husbands (Ephesians 5:22)
 - Christian to Christian (Ephesians 5:21)
 - church (1 Timothy 5:17)

V ALL ARE UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY – GOD IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

- ◆ Exodus 20:1-3, “*I AM ...*”
- ◆ Isaiah 45:5-7, “*I AM ...*”
- ◆ Isaiah 45:9, “*... his Maker ...*”
- ◆ James 4:7, “*Submit therefore to God. Resist ...*”
- ◆ Deuteronomy 5:7, “*You shall have no other gods ...*”
- ◆ 1 Samuel 15:22, “*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice ...*”
- ◆ Deuteronomy 5:29, “*... and keep my commands always ...*”
- ◆ Deuteronomy 7:9-16, “*Keep ... obey ...*”

VI SUBMIT TO LEADERSHIP

God works through delegated levels of authority.

- ◆ Our attitude towards those whom God sets in delegated authority over us is the outward and visible expression of our attitude towards God Himself. (Hebrews 13:7) 1 Thessalonians 5:12, “*...have charge over you*” and 1 Timothy 5:17, “*...Elders who rule over you.*” Christian leaders do not force their authority – voluntary submission.
- ◆ We are responsible for our own decisions (freewill agents).

- God honours and does not overrule e.g. decision for or against Christ.
- Unbelievers have, though they are bound.
- ◆ Our authority is maintained by means of submission to His imperial authority. 2 Timothy 3:16 “... *God establishes His authority through His Word.*” God delegated authority to us to rule: -
 - was part of God’s purpose for existence of man on this planet.
 - Genesis 1:26 “... *let them rule over ...* “
- ◆ Authority symbolised by the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Genesis 2:15-17, “... *Lord commanded man...*”
 - Man lost it to sin: -
 - Genesis 3:1-6 “... *she took from it’s fruit*”
 - Genesis 3:17-19 “... *results of Adam’s rebellion.*”

VII JESUS RESTORED AUTHORITY OF MAN OVER EARTH AND ENEMY

- ◆ Matthew 28:18, “*All authority has been given to Me...*”
- ◆ Hebrew 2:14, “... *that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death ...*”
- ◆ Colossians 2:15, “... *when he had disarmed the rulers and authorities*”
- ◆ Colossians 1:13, “*For He delivered us from ...*”

We are to take it up again.

VIII OUR WHOLE EXISTENCE INVOLVES THE CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY

EPHESIANS 6:12

“*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities...*”

- ◆ To function we must understand authority. It is a good thing, but it can be abused.
- ◆ Why do we not like it? **Because of rebellion in our nature** – we must understand and submit to the right authority. Example, girl who submits to authority of feeling and marries the wrong guy.

IX SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY (THE BENEFITS)

Exercise right authority, example Father in discipline – why?

- ◆ Isaiah 9:6-7, “*peace*”
- ◆ Romans 14:17, “... *righteousness and peace*”
- ◆ Ephesians 6, “... *long life*”
- ◆ Ephesians 6:3, “... *submission ... he will receive back from the Lord.*”
- ◆ Deuteronomy 7:9-16, “... *keeping covenant, loving kindness, love, blessing, health, healing, victory.*”

In order to function properly as kingdom citizens, we need to identify the correct authorities and submit to them, as well as exercise correct authority.

DEUTERONOMY 7:11

“Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgements which I am commanding you today, to do them.”