

Monday

What Does the Bible Say about My Government Leaders?

1. Read I Peter 2:13-17 – Peter tells us to submit to every ordinance of man. What is the reason he gives?
2. List as many of your government as you can think of and give their sphere of influence. You don't need to give specific names; "police" is fine.
3. What is the purpose for government leaders?
4. Read Titus 3:1-2 – What is the first command in verse 2?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 8:2-5 – Speaking of the king, Solomon said, "Be not hasty to go out of his sight." What does that mean?
6. According to verse 5, what is the benefit of obeying?
7. Read I Timothy 2:1-3 – What is the highest priority as far as our authority is concerned?
8. According to verse 2, what is the result of praying for our authority?
9. Does God like us to pray for our authority?

God instituted government. Government provides order and structure. It protects us and helps our society function. Those in positions of authority in our government are there by God's design and permission. It is, therefore, necessary that we obey them, pray for them, and respect them. Do that today!

Tuesday

What Does the Bible Say about My School Teachers?

1. Read Romans 13:1-7 – The "higher powers" are anyone who is in authority over you. What does it mean to be subject to them?
2. According to verse 2, how does God view it for you to resist your authorities?
3. What is the penalty for resisting your authority?
4. According to verse 3, if you are doing what is right, is there any reason to be afraid of you authorities?
5. What should you get from your authority if you do what is right?
6. According to verse 4, should you be fearful if you do what is wrong?
7. What does it mean that the ruler does not bear "the sword in vain?"
8. According to verse 5, for what two reasons should we obey our authority?
9. According to verse 6, why are we to pay tribute or taxes?
10. Verse 7 says, "Render therefore to all their dues..." What does that mean?

What does all this have to do with school teachers? Your teachers are in authority over you, so they are there by God's design, so you need to obey them in matters concerning their classroom. They have been given authority, and they don't bear the sword in vain. They probably won't chop your head off for not doing your homework or talking in class, but they can rightfully correct your behavior. Render to their dues and do what they ask you to do!

Wednesday

What Does the Bible Say about My Boss at Work?

1. Read Ephesians 6:5-8 – Paul told us to obey with “fear and trembling.” This phrase is used to describe “the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfill his duty.” Why is that so important in your relationship with your boss?
2. To serve with “eyeservice” means to work hard and do what you are supposed to do only when the boss is working. How does God want us to work?
3. According to verse 6, serving our boss faithfully is part of God’s will for our lives. From where do we serve?
4. According to verse 8, who rewards us for working well?
5. Read I Timothy 6:1-2 – What is the reason for honoring your boss?
6. According to verse 2, should we treat saved bosses any differently than unsaved bosses?
7. Read I Peter 2:18-19 – Should our obedience be dependent on whether or not our boss deserves it? Why?
8. Read Colossians 3:22-25 – Verse 23 tells us to work “heartily” or with 100% effort. As we do that, are we ultimately serving our boss or God?

Paul ends this passage with a reminder that God will reward you according to your service to your boss, whether good or bad. The last statement in verse 25 is “there is no respect of persons.” God will reward your attitude and service to your boss just as you deserve, regardless of who you are. If you don’t already, you will someday work for someone. Serve that person as you serve God!

Thursday

What Does the Bible Say about My Pastors?

1. Read Acts 20:28 – Paul mentioned one of the main responsibilities of a pastor. That is to feed the flock. What does that mean?
2. Read Hebrews 13:7 – This verse establishes pastors as a spiritual authority. Does he lead by his word or by his example?
3. You should not, however, follow a pastor blindly. What are you to consider before following him?
4. Read Hebrews 13:17 – Here is the same expression and a command to submit to them. What reason is given?
5. It is the pastor’s desire to be able to give a good report of you. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, who is ultimately responsible if the pastor gives a bad report?
6. Read I Peter 5:1-4 – The pastor is to take oversight. That means he is to care for, look after, and inspect the affairs of the church. How does that apply to your conduct in the church?
7. A pastor is often mentioned as a shepherd. Verse 4 mentions the Chief Shepherd. Who is that?
8. Who then is the final authority in the church?
9. How can you be an encouragement to your pastors today?

Pastors have a huge responsibility. They are responsible to feed God’s people, oversee the affairs of the church, and set a good example for the people to follow. The best way for you to be a blessing to your pastors is by praying for them regularly. We need your prayer!

Friday

What Does the Bible Say about the Church's Authority?

1. Read Matthew 18:15-17 – This passage describes the steps to take if one brother in Christ sins against another. What are the three steps?
2. The last step is for the complaint to be taken to the church. If the person refuses to hear the counsel of the church, according to verse 17, what does the church have authority to do?
3. Read I Corinthians 6:1-6 – Is it acceptable for one believer to sue another?
4. Verse 2 asks a rhetorical question. Answer it. If we will be able to judge the angels someday, are we able to judge matters amongst ourselves?
5. According to verse 4, judgments that pertain to this life should be made by whom?
6. Read Acts 13:1-3 – What were Barnabas and Saul (Paul) doing when the Holy Spirit command that they be set apart for missionary service?
7. From a human perspective, who actually set them apart, pray over them, and sent them out?

There is much more to mention about the church's authority. In all of Paul's epistles to churches, he addresses individual churches. Christ addressed individual churches in Revelation 2-3. Every church has the right to govern itself under the headship of Jesus Christ. Part of that governing is church discipline. While it is never a pleasant thing, it is necessary for the purity of the church and the spiritual well-being of the person being disciplined. The goal of church discipline is always restoration. When offenses come, let the church take care of them, not an unsaved judge.

Saturday

What Does the Bible Say about My Parents?

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-3 – Paul gave a simple reason to obey your parents. What is it?
2. This command comes with a promise. What is it?
3. According to verse 3, is it to your benefit to obey your parents?
4. Read Colossians 3:20 – Paul says that you are to obey your parents in all things. Does that include things you don't like or understand?
5. Paul gave another reason to obey your parents. What is it?
6. Read Leviticus 19:3 – God commanded that every person fear his father and mother. What is the reason for that?
7. Read Leviticus 20:9 – What was the penalty for disrespecting parents?
8. Read Proverbs 1:8-9 – Solomon instructed his son to obey his parents. What is the result given in verse 9?
9. Read Proverbs 30:17 – Does God take obedience to your parents seriously?

Though you probably won't get your eye picked out by a bird, you can be certain that God is not happy when you disobey your parents. God does give a promise to those who obey them. He says, "that it may be well with thee." It is always to your benefit to obey your parents. Your obedience pleases Him. "Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe, doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it happily...Sweetly submitting to authority, leaving to God the rest...Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe!"

Sunday
What Does the Bible Say about Husbands?

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-24 – To whose husband should a wife submit?
2. According to verse 23, what does the husband-wife relationship picture?
3. Paul described the authority relationship between the husband and wife. He said that the husband is the “head” of the wife. What does that mean?
4. According to verse 24, in how many things is the wife to submit to her husband?
5. Read Colossians 3:18 – Paul told the Colossian wives to submit to their husbands “as it is fit in the Lord.” That means that the level of their submission must come up to the standard of obeying God Himself. How is a person to obey God?

6. Read I Peter 3:1-2 – What does it mean to be in subjection to someone?
7. What reason does Peter give for wives to obey their husbands?

While the wife is to submit to her husband, she is not expected to be her husband’s slave. The husband has a huge responsibility to love his wife selflessly and lead her in a way that helps her to become more like Jesus Christ. God will hold husbands responsible for their leadership, and He will hold wives responsible for their willing submission to their husbands. With any authority God expects you to obey whether you think the person deserves your respect or not. Obedience really is the very best way to show that you believe.