

2. God's Established Authority Structures

Sub-title: Understanding Authority & its various Applications

- In the book of Genesis, at the account of creation, we see that God has set in place & communicated an authority structure:
 - This authority structure is still in place today
 - It has not been cancelled or superseded by another structure or method

Genesis 1:26, 28 (NKJV) *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ... **28** Then God blessed them, and **God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

- God created mankind and gave us dominion (authority)
- He created & communicated an authority structure where:
 - God is the supreme authority over everyone and everything
 - God has delegated authority in the earth to mankind (Psalm 115:16)
 - God has delegated authority over the family primarily to the man
 - If or when something goes wrong in a family, God is firstly looking for the man (Adam, where are you? [Genesis 3:9])
 - Whenever there is trouble in a home, it is usually because of a disregard for God's established authority structure
 - The man (husband, father) is the primary watchman in his family (Is. 21:6)
 - Men must guard every "entrance" into their home/family (Ezek. 33:7)
 - The man is the chief servant in the family, and responsible for its entire well-being

A. Definition of the word "Authority"

- Authority – the right to create and / or enforce rules & regulations
- Authority - the right & privilege to operate at an elevated position or rank
- Having authority means we are authorised to rule (influence & lead) within a delegated sphere or space
- Authority is dominion
- Kingdom = the king's domain

B. Different kinds (or applications) of Authority

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| 1. Ultimate (supreme) Authority | God Almighty | Isaiah 45:5–6 |
| 2. Domestic authority | Family | Eph. 5:22-33, 6:1-4 |
| 3. Governmental authority | Central, regional & local | 1 Tim. 2:2, Titus 3:1 |
| 4. Employment authority | Company owner, manager | 1 Peter 2:18 |
| 5. Organisational authority | Schools, sports, clubs, etc. | |
| 6. Property authority | Lands, buildings, houses, etc. | |
| 7. Church authority | Christ, five-fold ministers | Eph. 5:23, 4:11 |
| 8. Spiritual authority | Authority of the believer | Luke 10:19–20 |

C. Why did God set up Authority Structures?

Three Scripture passages speaking about three different authority structures:

1. God's (supreme & ultimate) authority

Deuteronomy 4:40 (NKJV) *You shall therefore keep His (God's) statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time.*"

2. Domestic authority (father & mother)

Ephesians 6:1–3 (NKJV) Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. **2 "Honor your father and mother,"** which is the first commandment with promise: **3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."**

3. Governmental authority

Romans 13:1–4 (ESV) *Let every person be subject to the **governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for **he is God's servant for your good**. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For **he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.***

4. Conclusion: All (three) authority structures are set up:
- a. That it may go well with you & with your children after you (Deut. 4:40)
 - b. That you may prolong your days in the land (Deut. 4:40)\
 - c. That it may be well with you (Eph. 6:3)
 - d. (That) you may live long on the earth (Eph. 6:3)
 - e. He (government official) is God's servant for your good
5. Every authority structure that God has set up is for our good, not for the good of the authority structure itself!

D. A Word to Parents

- Parents, there are two main things that your children must know:
 1. That you love them
 2. That they are not in charge (you are the authority in the home!)
- If we teach our children to respect & obey our parental authority, which is the initial & primary authority that they encounter, then they won't have any trouble respecting and obeying other authority structures
- It all begins in the home!

E. A Word to all of us

If the above-stated truths about authority were understood and adhered to in today's society, we could drastically reduce:

- Various social services
- Police presence
- Judicial services
- Legal services
- Governments departments
- Etc.

F. Scripture passages about Authority, and our Response to it

1 Peter 2:13–17 (NKJV) *Therefore **submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake**, whether to the king as supreme, **14** or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—**16** as free,*

yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

1 Peter 2:18 (NKJV) *Servants, **be submissive to your masters** with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.*

1 Peter 3:1 (NKJV) *Wives, likewise, **be submissive to your own husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,*

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV) *Likewise you younger people, **submit yourselves** to your elders. Yes, **all of you be submissive to one another**, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*