

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

The Foundations of Our Faith

Discussion Guide
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Sermon **When the Bible Conflicts With Authority** by Paul Martin

I Samuel 15: 23; Luke 14: 26; Acts 5: 29; Romans 13: 1-5

Introduction: This is the third consideration in our study of Biblical authority. We have previously considered how to react when the Bible conflicts with science and with culture. In this study we will consider the subject of when Biblical principles or commands come into conflict with other legitimate authorities in our lives.

Sermon Outline

I. First Principle: Rebellion is Never the Will of God

- A. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is like the sin of idolatry: we are never more like Satan himself than when we have a prideful and rebellious spirit.
- B. All authority ultimately comes from God, is ordained by Him, and therefore is to be treated with the utmost respect. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Authority in marriage
 2. Parental authority
 3. Governmental authority
 4. Church authority, including Pastors and Elders
 5. Corporate, business, and institutional authority
- C. There is no such thing as a godly life that is not under authority; and to hold authority with a godly attitude requires the humility of submitting to authority in appropriate realms.
- D. We must be sure that we have a genuine attitude of humility and submission to authority before we can begin to contemplate the rightful refusal to obey a legitimate authority over us.

II. We Must Obey God Rather Than Men

- A. All authority comes from God, He is, therefore, the Supreme Authority, and all other authorities are ultimately under His dominion, whether or not they recognize His rightful Lordship.
- B. Jesus declared that following Him could potentially cause conflict in marriage, between parents and children, within the extended family, and that such conflict was to be expected and accepted as a part of following Him.
- C. Most frequently the persecution and tribulation that believers and the Church endure is at the hands of otherwise legitimate authorities who are threatened by the message of the Gospel and the pure lives of the followers of Jesus.
- D. In every case where there is conflict between the clearly revealed will of God and the commands of other legitimate authorities in our lives, we must obey God, and essentially disobey the rule of man.

III. We Must Suffer the Consequences Without Rebellion

- A. There is no Biblical basis for active resistance or "armed" rebellion. In every case of Godly disobedience, the followers of God accepted passively the judgment and consequences of human authority: Nehemiah, Daniel, Shadrach, Mesach, & Abednego, Stephen, Peter & John, Paul. See the instruction of both Paul & Peter in Romans 13 and I Peter 2:18-22
- B. Obedience to Christ may cause the loss of a marriage, the loss of family, the loss of employment, the loss of freedom, or the loss of life. In all circumstances we are to suffer gladly for the sake of Christ and the Gospel.

Conclusion: The Bible remains the ultimate authority and the only rule for faith and life as it is the inspired Word of God and the complete expression of His will in all matters of moral and ethical choices.

"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."

I Samuel 15: 23 (NASB)

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14: 26 (NASB)

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Acts 5: 29 (NASB)

Knowledge results in arrogance; the goal of our instruction is love.

Discussion Questions

1.) Name some commands of God that a child/adolescent or wife might be expected to obey contrary to the wishes or commands of a husband or parents:

2.) How should a believing wife respond to the Biblical principle of tithing if her husband is an unbeliever and refuses to give to the cause of Christ?

3.) Explain how Daniel used a godly appeal to win favor with the King against his express command. (See Daniel 1:1-21)

4.) Explain the consequences of disobedience in the case of the three Hebrews (Daniel 3:1-30) and in the case of Stephen (Acts 7:51-60).

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

Romans 13: 1-5 (NASB)

5.) Was the American Revolution a godly revolt? Why or why not?

6.) When is it appropriate to defend oneself or one's family with force? Can you give a Biblical defense for your answer?

7.) How do you suppose one would feel, if they truly have a godly spirit, and are required to disobey the directives of a legitimate authority in their life? Explain your answer:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
I Timothy 2: 1-4 (NASB)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
I Peter 2: 13-15 (NASB)

MEMORY VERSE

“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.”
I Samuel 15: 23 (NASB)

God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

NOTES:

Prayer Requests:

Lined area for notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

Lined area for prayer requests, consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

The Mission of the Small Groups Ministry

We are a church of connected small groups that meet purposefully on a regular basis to equip one another for ministry, to love and build up one another in Christ, to know Him intimately, and to reach out to a lost and dying world in obedience to the Great Commission.



Alliance Bible Church
www.mchenryalliance.com