

The Wisdom of Authority

“Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man’s wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.”

Ecclesiastes 8:1

The Wisdom of Authority

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”

I Chronicles 12:32

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“Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man’s wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.”

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Who Is As the Wise Man?

- **The wise man is not Solomon, but exceptional wise men.**
- **Interpreting things is knowing how events affect conduct.**
- **A wise man's face shines due to wisdom and a merry heart.**
- **A wise man is often bold but changes for given situations.**
- **A wise man knows how to be bold and be gentle/merciful.**

The Wisdom of Authority

- How can I be perfect in all aspects of authority?
- What does the Bible say about those in authority?
- What is the godly balance of authority and affection?
- When is it right to correct or disobey rightful authority?
- What is the check that keeps authority from being abused?

Shotgun Counseling

- **Preaching is similar to counseling – Bible advice how to act.**
- **Shotgun counseling addresses a group – efficient & gentle.**
- **Only a wise man will benefit by applying what fits to himself.**
- **Fools get confused by the shotgun approach or deny issues.**
- **Wisdom rejects self-deception and trusts others' judgment.**

Why Do You Preach Only One Side?

- Because the Bible usually preaches one doctrine at a time.
- Think about tempting, swearing, personal offences, etc.
- Preaching both simultaneously is diluting and confusing.
- But we do not mislead to false assumptions or convictions.
- Once truth is established, then exceptions are considered.

As Men, You Will Be in Authority

- **If you marry, you will have the authority God gave husbands.**
- **If you have a family, you will have the authority of a father.**
- **If you run a business, you will have authority of a master.**
- **If you become a pastor, you will have authority in a church.**
- **If you ever hold a political office, you will be a civil ruler.**

The Bible Mostly Addresses Subjects

- **Authority has the crucial need of those under it to submit.**
- **The nature of man is rebellious against any form of control.**
- **Without submission authority cannot exist or be beneficial.**
- **God made David king, but the nation also made him king.**
- **Submission makes a marriage, but love makes it good.**

We Want to Be Perfect Subjects

- Before you deserve authority, you must honor all authority.**
- Rather than limit or question, let us honor all authorities.**
- Great men guard their thoughts, words, gestures, deeds.**
- A good teacher to wives and children is our submission.**
- God loves authority, so to please Him you must also love it.**

When Do We Resist Authority?

- We obey the five spheres of authority until they cross God.
- God is the ultimate ruler and gives authority to five spheres.
- *We ought to obey God rather than men* ... is when we resist.
- We sacrifice our liberties cheerfully if overruled by a power.
- If you do not get this, check “When Your Husband’s a Fool.”

Can a Christian Be in Politics?

- It would be very difficult for a Bible Christian to be elected.**
- There would be nearly constant temptation to compromise.**
- The Bible does not instruct or emphasize changing nations.**
- You are already in a kingdom with full-time kingdom duties.**
- Joseph, Daniel, and Esther were captives and/or prisoners.**

What May I Do Politically? (1)

- **Vote ...** but a wise man will vote practicality over principle.
- **Write ...** communicate to congressmen, if we are a republic.
- **Petition ...** sign up to help legitimate, respectful requests.
- **Support ...** send a donation to a preferred candidate.
- **Lobby ...** support those working lawfully for change in rule.

What May I Do Politically? (2)

- **Taxes ...** do like Howard Jarvis (1978) while managing life.
- **Pray ...** if you do these things but not pray, you are a rebel.
- **Lawful measures** are readily accepted by rulers as lawful.
- **Lawful measures** must also meet scriptural criteria (1 Co 6:12).
- **An excellent way to judge** is to compare to other spheres.

But What If the Authority Is Sinful? (1)

- **A ruler's sins are between him and God, not him and you.**
- **A ruler's sins only affect you when he commands you to sin.**
- **Chain of command and accountability go up, not down.**
- **Matthew 23:1-3 is priceless wisdom, stating the obvious.**
- **Submitting to bad rulers shows godly character (1 Pet 2:18-23).**

But What If the Authority Is Sinful? (2)

- **Jesus endorsed Caesar after Herod had beheaded John.**
- **Jesus endorsed Caesar before Pilate had Him crucified.**
- **Jesus endorsed Caesar before Agrippa I had James killed.**
- **Paul and Peter endorsed Nero (Rom 13:7; Titus 3:1; I Pet 2:13-17).**
- **A president's personal life or political life do not alter duty.**

But What If the Authority Is Sinful? (3)

- **Obeying a sinful ruler ... in a law that is not sin ... is not sin!**
- **Obeying a God-ordained ruler is good. Why any confusion?**
- **A drunkard father has full authority to have a family curfew.**
- **Only when an authority is difficult can we show godliness.**
- **God's providence fully controls all such situations like this.**

But the Bible Condemns Wrong!

- **God does command masters to be just and fair (Col 4:1).**
- **But if they are not, the servant is not excused (I Pet 2:18-23).**
- **Husbands are to love their wives at a high level (Eph 5:25-33).**
- **But if they do not, the wife is not excused at all (Eph 5:22-24).**
- **Never forget the case of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:1-3.**

When Would We Resist?

- We will continue to spank children according to scripture.
- We will continue to assemble even if it is against the law.
- We will continue to preach God's word even if a hate crime.
- We will continue to teach children creation no matter what.
- We will not resist if new laws take away Christian liberties.

We Do Not Resist for Liberties

- **God does not condemn renting a house to sodomites.**
- **God does not condemn children having vaccinations.**
- **God does not require us to have guns in our houses.**
- **God does not condemn children in public schools.**
- **God does not require us to have any number of children.**

We Would Resist Passively

- **As at the present, only fools discipline children in public.**
- **We will edit our website more carefully as laws worsen.**
- **We would assemble secretively if necessary by bad laws.**
- **We might even consider moving as William Screven did.**
- **We would hide everything we could as the scriptures teach.**

What Checks Abuse of Authority?

- **God Himself is the ultimate check on authority** (Ec 5:8; Ps 68:4).
- **Prayer by godly men moves rulers** (Jer 29:4-7; I Tim 2:1-3; Esth 4:16).
- **Righteousness brings God's aid** (Pr 16:7; Ps 27:5; 37:39; Jer 15:11).
- **Use of lawful means of redress may work** (Acts 22:25; 25:11).
- **Pride and a .410 both offend God and disgrace the gospel.**

How Fools Handle Authority

- **A big fool heard marriage preaching and ruined his family.**
- **Fools never learn to be real leaders and use authority right.**
- **Fools think they can force love, loyalty, obedience, etc.**
- **Fools treat their wives or children like servants or slaves.**
- **Fools think they can act any way they wish in their home.**

How Wise Men Handle Authority

- He hears marriage preaching ... and examines himself.
- He has problems with children ... and examines himself.
- He knows he must earn and win love, loyalty, obedience.
- He honors his wife kindly and does not discourage children.
- He creates a loving, peaceful, safe, and warm home always.

When Good Wives and Children Hurt

- **A big fool hears about authority and becomes a dictator.**
- **His wife's godly and submissive obedience confirms him.**
- **His children's quiet and submissive obedience confirm him.**
- **Unable to examine himself or apply truth rightly, he warps.**
- **Every man must humbly and wisely apply authority truth.**

All Governments Are Popular

- Citizens submit until the pain exceeds the cost of rebellion.
- Their submission at any point does not itself prove wisdom.
- Christian wives and/or children seldom indicate the truth.
- They are trying to be submissive, and they fear the dictator.
- Self-examination must exalt scripture and others; be critical.

Authority Is a Privilege

- You do not have authority because you are inherently better.
- You do not have the authority or the right to do as you wish.
- Your authority is God's choice and/or others' submission.
- These facts will humble every wise man to self-examination.
- You must use your authority in such a way as to please God.

Authority Is a Responsibility

- **It is a sacred trust from God for you to implement His will.**
- **You are to use authority as God's minister for others' good.**
- **Authority is also a responsibility to use only for God's glory.**
- **Authorities are servants – every office should serve others.**
- **Your authority is mainly for the benefit of those under you.**

When Rulers Are Servants

- Have you ever heard, “Civil Servants”? What are they?
- Civil rulers, called “gods” in the Bible, are God’s ministers.
- Jesus Christ’s bishops, or overseers, are God’s ministers.
- Both offices are also ministers/servants to their people.
- From greater to lesser, all authority should lead and serve.

God Demands Obedience to Rulers

- **Let's start with this authority due to Rom 13:1-7 preaching.**
- **Their great authority is scriptural** (Eccl 8:2-5; I Pet 2:13-17; Tit 3:1).
- **They should be revered** (Ex 22:28; Eccl 10:20; II Pet 2:10-12).
- **Rebellion or sedition is severely punished** (Prov 24:21-22).
- **The only exception is God's clear commands** (Acts 4:19; 5:29).

But God Also Instructs Rulers

- **“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed...” (Ps 2:10).**
- **“He that ruleth over men must be just ...” (II Sam 23:3-4).**
- **God’s kings were not to multiply wives or wealth (Deut 17:17).**
- **God’s kings were to read the word of God daily (Deut 17:18-20).**
- **Magistrates were to hate covetousness, etc. (Ex 18:21; II Chr 19:7).**

Rulers Will Answer for Their Rule

- They will not truly answer to you in this life or Judgment Day.
- God is higher than the highest and He will hold court (Eccl 5:8).
- When God was done with Sennacherib ... he was done (Is 10:12)!
- Herod Agrippa I killed James and died of worms (Acts 12:20-23).
- Kings of the earth and great men will be judged (Rev 6:15-17).

Rehoboam Is a Great Lesson

- His father was the wisest king and wrote it all down for him!
- But he preferred his buds or bros rather than men of wisdom!
- The nation offered to serve him forever for a little tax relief!
- Puffed up by authority, he insulted them with power threats!
- They promptly stoned his tax collector, and he lost ten tribes!

Authority and Affection Are Compatible

- A little mercy from Rehoboam would have united the nation.**
- God is the ultimate authority, and He is loving and kind to all.**
- If you cannot say you are sorry – often – you must be a tyrant.**
- A loving leader gets more from those under him than a tyrant.**
- Love and service motivate greater effort than haughty rule.**

God Demands Honor to Pastors

- **“Obey them that rule over you, and submit”** (Heb 13:7,17,24).
- **Pastors are rulers to lead the churches** (Rom 12:8; I Tim 3:5).
- **They are over the saints and deserving esteem** (I Thes 5:12-13).
- **They are supported for their constant work** (I Co 9:14; I Tim 5:17).
- **They are to take the oversight of the churches** (I Pet 5:1-4).

But God Also Instructs Pastors

- **Their activities are highly regulated** (I Tim 4:13-16; II Tim 2:4; 4:1-2).
- **Three epistles totaling 13 chapters are for them** (I Tim 3:15).
- **The content of their preaching is regulated** (II Tim 2:2; I Cor 2:1-5).
- **Paul condemned any partiality with great severity** (I Tim 5:21).
- **Paul with great authority was gentle** (I Thes 2:3-12; II Tim 2:24-26).

Pastors Will Answer for Their Rule

- They will not truly answer to you but rather to God (I Cor 4:1-4).
- Have you ever read God's warnings (Jeremiah 23; Ezekiel 13; Malachi 2).
- Think about Nadab, Korah, Eli's sons, Ahimelech, and others.
- No wonder James warned to not be many masters (James 3:1).
- God will destroy ministers defiling His churches (I Cor 3:11-17).

God Demands Obedience to Masters

- **Servants are to please them well in all things** (Titus 2:9).
- **Servants do not have the right to even answer again** (Tit 2:9).
- **A froward boss mistreating you is opportunity** (I Pet 2:18-23).
- **You are to serve as if working for Jesus** (Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22-24).
- **Working for a Christian boss does not alter a thing** (I Ti 6:1-2).

But God Also Instructs Masters

- **Masters must provide equal service without excuses** (Eph 6:9).
- **Masters have a Master in heaven measuring them** (Col 4:1).
- **Masters must pay day laborers daily** (Lev 19:13; Deut 24:15).
- **Masters must not underpay their servants** (Mal 3:5; Jas 5:4).
- **A good master will treat his servants delicately** (Prov 29:21).

Masters Will Answer for Their Rule

- They will not truly answer to you but rather to God (Col 4:1).
- Jesus Christ the Judge is coming to judge masters (Jas 5:1-9).
- God's word throughout condemns the oppressive master.
- If God sees and judges rulers, He most certainly will masters.
- The Costco principle is more scriptural than the Sam's way.

God Demands Wives to Submit

- **The woman was made a helper for a man (Gen 2:18; I Cor 11:9).**
- **The man is to rule over her ... God told Eve in Eden (Gen 3:16).**
- **They are to submit to husbands as to the Lord (Eph 5:22-24).**
- **Wives are to fear husbands and call them lord (I Pet 3:1-6).**
- **Wives are to obey and reverence husbands (Tit 2:5; Eph 5:33).**

But God Also Instructs Husbands

- **God demands you honor her based on knowledge (I Pet 3:7).**
- **You must love her like Christ loves and you love (Eph 5:25-33).**
- **She must overwhelm your desires for love and sex (Prov 5:19)**
- **You must love her without any bitterness at her (Col 3:19).**
- **You must grow wiser to answer her questions (I Cor 14:34-35).**

You Will Answer for Your Wife

- **God sees every tear she sheds or not due to you (Mal 2:13).**
- **God will not hear the prayers of lordly husbands (I Pet 3:7).**
- **You lose – if your wife does not blossom as God planned.**
- **You lose – if your children see harshness and resent you.**
- **She is a loan to you ... God's daughter ... forget father-in-law!**

To Fulfill Your Role as Husband

- You must reject your own feelings or ideas of sufficiency.**
- You must nourish her into a happy, vibrant, growing woman.**
- You must cherish her as a very special object of affection.**
- Your wife must be better off spiritually than without you.**
- Her family, your children, and others will esteem your work.**

God Demands Child Honor/Obedience

- **This is the first authority sphere every man meets in life.**
- **God put this authority sphere in His Ten Commandments.**
- **Positively ... God attached great rewards to parental honor.**
- **Negatively ... God attached the death penalty to child sins.**
- **Making light of parents in word or deed was a capital crime.**

But God Also Instructs Fathers

- **Discouraging or provoking children to anger is sin (Col 3:21).**
- **Fathers must bring their children up in God's nurture (Ep 6:4).**
- **Solomon had great parents that made him great (Pr 4:3-4).**
- **Chastening is for loving correction done wisely (Heb 12:5-10).**
- **Mothers are to be instructed to love their children (Titus 2:3-5).**

You Will Answer for Your Children

- **Children are the creation of human souls assigned to you.**
- **Their pain as children or trouble later in life both indict you.**
- **Their rebellion most often indicates your faults as a father.**
- **Their stunted development will expose your work as father.**
- **The great day of judgment will include your role as a father.**

To Fulfill Your Role as Father

- You must reject your own feelings or ideas of sufficiency.
- Your children must be happy, thriving, vibrant persons.
- You must love them affectionately and personally as souls.
- They must be better off spiritually than with other fathers.
- They will be sacrificial, selfless, spiritual servants of Christ.

The Errors Fathers Make

- The overbearing tyrant does not grasp loving leadership.
- The weak compromiser cannot stand up to wife/children.
- The selfish neglecter is lost in his own business or leisure.
- The ignorant ostrich cannot imagine his family is imploding.
- The picky perfectionist is oft distracted and cannot praise.

Godly Men Use Authority Perfectly

- They exercise it like the sacred trust it is from Almighty God.
- They show subjection to those under them by obeying rulers.
- They represent the goodness of God by loving leadership.
- They are constantly consistent for others to safely trust them.
- They love authority for good to others, not their advantage.

Let Us Be Perfect in Both Directions

- We start by obeying and honoring authorities like no other.
- We further this very godly trait by teaching and defending it.
- We exercise any authority of our own for the profit of others.
- We further this very godly trait by teaching and defending it.
- We trust God to honor our submission and assist our ruling.

For Further Study

- The Ordinance of Authority ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf
- Living Under Obama ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf
- Commentary on Romans 13:1-7 ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/romans-thirteen.pdf
- When Your Husband's a Fool ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/when-your-husbands-a-fool-2.pdf
- Christian Ethics – Principles ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-principles.pdf
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- God Bless the IRS! ... www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/god-bless-the-irs.pdf
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