

AUTHORITY and SUBMISSION -

The Authority of scripture

Definitions and Qualifications

Benefits

Delegated Authorities

Submission, Obedience, and Rebellion

How to appeal wisely

Who's in charge ? Who has the last word ? These are serious questions with definite consequences. Why would we give someone authority over us ?

We may think we know best for our lives, but lets face it; we don't know much about the future and we haven't learned much from our past. It is much wiser to turn over control to our creator. He knows best. The question is not really about who we give authority, but more a question of will we recognise the authority God already has. Not just over some things, part time, but over everything, all the time.

Lets look at some key definitions for the Bible -

Inspired -. To affect, guide, or arouse by divine influence. To be the cause or source of; bring about. . To draw in (air) by inhaling. To breathe life into.

Infallible - Incapable of erring. Incapable of failing; certain. Incapable of error in expounding doctrine on faith or morals. (Inerrent)

PS 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

2 Tim. 3. [16] All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2 Peter 1 [20] Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

PS 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

MT 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. [19] Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

In 1915, A Russian Armenian was reading his Bible when he was beheaded. I saw the Bible--large, thick, and well used. Inside was a reddish stain that permeated most of the book. The stain was the blood of this man, one of more than a million casualties of a religious and ethnic holocaust. About 70 years later a large shipment of bibles entered Romania from the West, and Ceausescu's (dictator of Romania) lieutenants confiscated them, shredded them, and turned them into pulp. Then they had the pulp reconstituted into toilet paper and sold to the West.

Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.

You can't quote the Bible indiscriminately. I remember the story of two lawyers during a trial. One thought he would make a great impression on the jury by quoting from the Bible. So he said concerning his opponent's client, "We have it on the highest authority that it has been said, 'All that a man has will he give for his skin.'" But the other lawyer knew the Bible better. He said, "I am very much impressed by the fact that my distinguished colleague here regards as the highest authority the one who said, 'All that a man has will he give for his skin.' You will find that this saying comes from the Book of Job, and the one who utters it is the devil. And that is whom he regards as the highest authority!"

Gipsy Smith told of a man who said he had received no inspiration from the Bible although he had "gone through it several times." "Let it go through you once," replied Smith, "then you will tell a different story!"

A survey was made of 4000 laymen in 114 evangelical churches across the U.S. They were asked, "Do you feel the preaching on Sunday relates to what's going on in your life?" Over 83% saw virtually no connection between what they heard on Sunday morning and what they faced on Monday morning.

[Howard Hendricks, 1984 Pastor's Enrichment Conference.](#)

For me to confess that Scripture is infallible and inerrant is to bind myself in advance to follow the method of harmonizing and integrating all that Scripture declares, without exception, I must believe that it is from God, however little I may like it, and whatever change of present beliefs, ways, and commitments it may require, and I must actively seek to live by it.

[James Packer, Your Father Loves You, 1986.](#)

The end result of all of this is sadly illustrated in the book, Reforming Fundamentalism, by George A. Marsden, which informs that 85% of the students in one of America's largest evangelical seminaries stated that they do not believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. Beyond that,

a poll of 10,000 U.S.A. clergymen (of whom 74% replied) by sociologist Jeffery Hadden in 1987 clearly reveals the effects of this significant change of belief through the passage of time. When asked if they believed that the Scriptures are the inspired and inerrant Word of God in faith, history, and secular matters:

95% of Episcopalians said "No."

87% of Methodists said "No."

82% of Presbyterians said "No."

77% of American Lutherans said "No."

67% of American Baptists said "No."

This sad commentary speaks for itself.

The Gideon, January, 1994, pp. 12-13.

If God has no authority by virtue of His very nature and character, and if the Bible can be found faulty, then we are not accountable to anyone for anything. People resort to doing what's right in their own eyes (*JDG 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.*). Human nature seeks independence from accountability, however, when we are left to ourselves, we are truly self destructive.

Authority

From the word "Author " which means - one who creates or originates. One who assumes responsibility for the content.

Source of information...

Source of power...

Decisive leadership...

Delegated... To appoint. - A representative, deputy, or agent.

One who is sent by another

Jesus

MK 1: [22] The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

MK 4:41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

MT 21:23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

MT 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. [17] When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. [18] Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Moses

EX 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt.[10] So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Ex. 18[21] But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. [22] Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

David

1SA 24:5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. [6] He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." [7] With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.

Centurion

MT 8:8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. [9] For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

Church leaders

LK 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, [2] and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Acts 14[23] Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Acts 20[28] Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

TIT 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

MT 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: [2] "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. [3] So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

Government

RO 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [2] Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. [3] For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. [4] For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. [5] Therefore, it is necessary to

submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

Home

EPH 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Author Watchman Nee says: God upholds the whole universe with his authority so he joins his children together through his authority. If any one of his children is independent and self reliant (not subject to Gods delegated authority) then that one

can never accomplish the work of God on Earth. He gives these requirements for spiritual authority:

1. He must be under authority
2. He must acknowledge where authority comes from
3. He must deny himself
4. He must stay in constant fellowship with the Lord
5. He must never establish his own authority
6. He must not listen to slanderous words and opposition
7. He must not defend himself
8. He must have revelation
9. He must not judge people
10. He must exhort and restore
11. He must be a servant

Submission: (Attitude)

To yield or surrender to the will of another

To give into the authority, power, or desires of another

EPH 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Obedience: (Action)

Dutifully complying with the commands, orders, or instructions of one in authority

1SA 15:22 But Samuel replied:

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1. Obedience is related to conduct... It is relative
2. Submission is related to a heart attitude.

It is absolute

3. God alone receives unqualified obedience without measure
4. Any person lower than God can only receive qualified obedience
5. We are never justified in rebellion. We must instead submit to a higher authority. (If an earthly authority is in conflict with God, We submit to God)

AC 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Examples:

- A. Daniel's friends refused to bow to king Nebuchadnezzar
- B. Daniel prayed to God to spite of the law
- C. Peter and Paul were imprisoned for preaching the gospel

Spirit of Rebellion -

An act or a show of defiance and hostility toward an authority or established leadership or government .

ISA 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you

Jer. 28 [16] Therefore, this is what the LORD says: `I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the LORD.' "

NU 12:1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this. (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam... Why were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

PR 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:...

PR 6:19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Consequences of Rebellion :

1. Gods judgment
2. Anarchy, lawlessness
3. Confusion, chaos
4. Poverty, famine

Satan's Pride

Since the very beginning of creation, Satan has instigated Rebellion. He was beautiful, talented, and second only to God Himself!

Pride was his downfall. He was, and is, self centered and self serving! He refuses to submit and acknowledge God's authority.

Soon, he will not be free to rebel and deceive because there are always consequences for behavior.

When he fell from Heaven, he took a third of the angels with him. I guess you could compare that to a church split! It always happens that way. When someone of influence rebels, they always take followers down with them.

Over the past 20 years I've seen many people leave a church mad because they didn't get their way. "Cancerous" attitudes always affect others. It spreads like a disease.

Most people have no idea what they are instigating because they have their eyes on people, not on the real issue. Carnal pride camouflages the spiritual root problem.

DID JESUS SUBMIT TO EARTHLY AUTHORITIES?

This question can only be asked by someone who doesn't know much about the Bible. It is very clear in scripture that he *did* submit to earthly authorities. People in our society, however, are conditioned to want to take a vote and get popular support before submitting to anything.

The Jews were expecting a Messiah who would set them free from Roman control. Jesus did not serve their purposes. He instead told them to render unto Caesar what is due to Caesar. Did he have to, or did he choose to? Did he have the right to establish his own kingdom? (of course he could and he did) but God's Kingdom is so much bigger than any earthly government.

If we can't submit to men, then we've never learned to really submit to God. It is He who raises up and tears down kings and kingdoms.

Jesus was well aware of the separation between the "office" of authority and the "person in the office." Matt 23:1-3 shows His respect for this principle. He often permits someone to hold the office in order to serve a much larger purpose. One we may never see.

BENEFITS OF BEING UNDER AUTHORITY:

1. Protection

- A. Like an umbrella of covering
- B. To guard against damage, attack, or theft

DT 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!' So Israel will live in safety alone; Jacob's spring is secure

2SA 22:3 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior-- from violent men you save me.

PR 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

PS 9:9 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

PS 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

PS 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

2. Provision

- A. Providence - Divine care; The boundaries of a king's domain
- B. To furnish or supply the means of sustenance
- C. Reduces the stress of having to do everything yourself

GE 22:8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

1KI 4:7 Solomon also had twelve district governors over all Israel, who supplied provisions for the king and the royal household. Each one had to provide supplies for one month in the year.

MT 7:9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a

fish, will give him a snake? [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

1 Tim.5 [8] If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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How to appeal to one in authority...

Appeal - An earnest or urgent request, entreaty, or supplication - A resort or application to a higher authority as for sanction, corroboration or decision
- The transfer of a case from a lower court to a higher court

MT 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. [16] But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' [17] If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

AC 25:10 Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. [11] If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!" After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!" [21] When Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar." Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." He replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him."

Determine the issue:

1. Moral or legal
2. Biblical
3. Ethical
4. Personal * (most power struggles and conflicts of interest come about in this arena. If our problem with compliance is over personal preferences, we put ourselves at the threshold of sinning.

Determine who is affected:

1. Just you
2. A group of people (are YOU responsible to protect and provide for these people?)

What needs to happen:

1. Change of heart
2. Change of course
3. Change of leadership

What to do:

1. Pray for the person in Authority
2. Pray for your attitude
3. Pray about your motives
4. Appeal to them privately
5. Bring a witness to appeal with you
6. Stay in the right spirit if your appeal is rejected
7. Wait for God to vindicate the truth, be patient, trust

*Do not confuse passive behavior with humility , meekness, or submission.
This is not a Godly response to Authority.*

Passive - overtly compliant. . Not participating, acting, or operating; / inert., useless
/ to shut down mentally, emotionally, or physically
to be a carpet, or "wet noodle"

Misbelief by those in Submission:

1. My opinion doesn't matter, so I should keep it to myself.
2. I must always agree with my leader
in order to submit to them
3. I only have to do what I'm told to.
4. I should set around and wait for
orders.
5. I should not dream, plan, or prepare.
6. I have no responsibility if I didn't
make the decision
7. I am usually less intelligent,
qualified or experienced than the
one in authority over me.
8. I should seek out a third party's
biased opinion when I don't agree.

Misbelief by those in Authority:

1. I should never seek or consider others' opinions
2. I can lay aside *responsibility* when I choose.
3. If I am in charge, I am not *accountable* to my subjects.
4. When I delegate, I can walk away from the task
5. When I delegate, I should always impose my personal preferences.

Abuse of Authority...

There is no doubt that Authority in every arena has suffered abuse. Dictators of governments practice ethnic cleansing, police brutality and fathers who molest children are just a few examples. So how can we submit to or respect the authority who abuses their position?

We must not confuse the *office* with the *person in the office*. Consider these biblical examples of response to errors of those in authority.

1. Did Absalom have justification to resent his father David? Did Absalom follow God's order to reconcile?
2. Did Noah give Ham reason to disrespect him? Did Ham honor his father's authority?
3. Was Miriam and Aaron wrongly accusing Moses? Did their behavior bring about consequences?
4. When we see authorities in error, should we pray for them? Should we go to them privately?
5. Did Nathan follow God's order to confront David?
6. Did Ester appeal wisely to the King?
7. Did Nehemiah appeal wisely to the King?
8. Can we do the right thing the wrong way?
9. Are there consequences for going around God's order?
10. Who's job is it to remove abusive authorities?
11. Did Jesus ever recognize the authority of the Pharisees?
12. Did the Pharisees ever question Jesus authority?
13. When the authorities arrested Jesus, did Peter understand who was really in control?

When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (and no lunch) he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished.

As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line. "Excuse me," Governor Herter said, "do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?" "Sorry," the woman told him. "I'm supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person." "But I'm starved," the

governor said. “Sorry,” the woman said again. “Only one to a customer.”

Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around. “Do you know who I am?” he said, “I am the governor of this state.” “Do you know who I am?” the woman said, “I’m the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister.”

The following pages are full of great issues to debate. We probably will not agree on how to handle each situation. Generals and Presidents have debated the best course of action, while deacons and Pastors often have difficulty resolving power struggles.

Working through these kinds of issues tells us a lot about ourselves and our ability to trust God with the outcome. The question is, do we learn from the past, and grow more wise as a result?

Will history repeat itself because the nature of man always remains constant?

Mutiny on the Bounty – excerpts from various sources

mu·ti·ny - Open rebellion against constituted authority, especially rebellion of sailors against superior officers.

History and speculation has brought about the writing of many books and movies on this event.

An historical event in the 1700’s. Capt. Bligh was given orders to sail the “bounty”

The ship had been purchased by the Royal Navy for a single mission in support of an experiment: they were to travel to Tahiti, pick up breadfruit plants, and transport them to the West Indies in hopes that they would grow well there and become a cheap source of food for slaves. In June 1787, Bounty was refitted at Deptford. The great cabin was converted to house the potted breadfruit plants, and gratings fitted to the upper deck. Her complement was 46 officers and men.

On December 23, 1787, Bounty sailed from Spithead for Tahiti. For a full month, she attempted to round Cape Horn, but adverse weather blocked her. Bligh ordered her turned about, and proceeded east, rounding the Cape of Good Hope and crossing the width of the Indian Ocean. During the outward voyage, Bligh demoted the ship's Sailing Master, John Fryer, replacing him

with Fletcher Christian with appointment as acting Lieutenant. This act seriously damaged the relationship between Bligh and Fryer, and Fryer would later claim Bligh's act was entirely personal.

Bounty reached Tahiti on October 25, 1788, after ten months at sea. Bligh and his crew spent five months in Tahiti, then called Otaheite, collecting and preparing a total of 1015 breadfruit plants. Bligh allowed the crew to live ashore and care for the potted breadfruit plants, and they became socialised to the customs and culture of the Tahitians. Master's Mate and Acting Lieutenant Fletcher Christian married Maimiti, a Tahitian woman.

Bligh was not surprised by his crew's reaction to the Tahitians. Three crewmen deserted and were recaptured. Instead of hanging them, as the crime of desertion was usually punished, Bligh ordered them flogged.

To this day, there is considerable debate on what caused the mutiny to occur. The true reasons for the mutiny may never be known and what they were might have been lost to time. Some people blame Captain Bligh for causing the mutiny. They feel that Bligh was a villain and tyrant, who abused the crew to the point that Christian and the crew felt they had no choice but to mutiny. Others feel the blame rests entirely with Fletcher Christian and the crew. They feel that Bligh was not an unusually harsh captain, that he was for the most part a man of his times. Whatever Bligh's faults, unusually harsh discipline was not among them. This is also brought out by the fact that three deserters during the voyage were flogged instead of being hanged. Further, Bligh noted within his official log that he needed every man.

Most ships of the time carried more officers than the Bounty did, and there were no Marines on board. This too was a factor in the success of the mutiny, and would not be a lesson easily forgotten by Bligh. On his second trip to Tahiti, he had both more officers and a complement of Marines.

As mentioned previously, while at Tahiti the men found they liked the place, especially the native women. Those who hold the crew responsible felt that after spending so much time on Tahiti they did not want to return to the ordinary life of a seaman and instead live a life of ease and sexual excess on that island.

Bounty left Tahiti on April 4, 1789. On April 28, in the Friendly Islands, Fletcher Christian led the famous mutiny. Of the 42 men on board aside from Bligh and Christian, 18 joined Christian in mutiny, 2 were passive, and 22 remained loyal to Bligh. The mutineers ordered Bligh, the ship's master, two midshipmen, and the ship's clerk into Bounty's launch. Bligh returned to England and reported the mutiny to the Admiralty on March 15, 1790. He was court martialed, but found not guilty of any crime.

Consider for discussion and debate the following conclusions –

Was the Commander responsible for demoralizing and low morale?

Was the crew justified? (were they unlike followers today)

What motivates a leader to exercise control?

What motivates followers to rebel?

How can extremes be avoided?

What other lessons can be learned?

The road to war about Viet nam -

1. Russia and China stood behind N viet nam to support communism
2. we stood behind democracy in S viet nam
3. if we didn't support those countries who are struggling for independence and freedom. we could be outnumbered and overtaken in our own land by the advancing agenda of the communists. We would have no world wide allies.
4. we agreed to defend and police the borders between the north and the south.
5. they were supported by Russian ships that carried oil and supplies to them.
6. if we attacked Russian ships. we would start ww3. If we didn't. they would continually supply N viet nam.
7. many cabinet members bounced back and forth as to what we should do when they advised the pres. LBJ. but He had to make the final decisions.
8. as termoil in the us grew the decisions were more and more unpopular.
9. There was a no win situation. we could not win the war without starting ww3.
10. we withdrew and it seemed as though we wasted lives and billions of dollars but the South is a democracy.
11. Should we support indecisive leadership when our own lives are being sacrificed and our objectives are unattainable?
12. What would you do if you were the Pres., and what would you expect from your closest advisors. (truth. loyalty, etc)
- 13.

Bradley military transport / tank - during the cold war in the 80's

1. A design of one armored military machine took 17 years of production and 14 billion \$ in the making.
 2. senate arms committee appointed an air force cornel to research and investigate the Army general in charge of the project
 3. he uncovered tremendous waste, lies to cover up incompetence. and embarrassed authorities
 4. multi million dollar contracts were given to friends under the table
 5. He wanted sheep inside the vehicle when it was fired upon to determine if they would survive, so they established an office to study sheep for six monthes first to deter his resolve.
 6. The appointed researcher was called by his military peers, a troublemaker, disloyal, rebellious, antagonist, etc
 7. If you worked under them and had to submit to these military authorities, would you go with the flow and avoid conflict ?
 8. If you did. would this be comprimising the truth.
 9. Would you be subjecting your convictions in a higher law of morality
 10. How would you handle the situation ?
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What causes Churches to split?

1. Doctrinal disputes?
2. Pastors abuse of authority?
3. Power struggles?
4. Ego's and insecurities?
5. Politics and Positioning.

Consider these high profile splits:

1. Satan rebels and takes 1/3 of the angles
2. Martin Luther left the catholic church.
3. Americas Independence from Britain

Are they all the same? Why? Why not?
What have we learned from this study?

HELPFUL SCRIPTURE

¹¹ Then he appointed Amariah the High Priest to be the court of final appeal in cases involving violation of sacred affairs; and Zebadiah (son of Ishmael), a ruler in Judah, as the court of final appeal in all civil cases; with the Levites as their assistants. "Be fearless in your stand for truth and honesty. And may God use you to defend the innocent," was his final word to them. 2 Chron 19:11 (Living)

³ A widow of that city came to him frequently to appeal for justice against a man who had harmed her.^{4,5} The judge ignored her for a while, but eventually she got on his nerves. " 'I fear neither God nor man,' he said to himself, 'but this woman bothers me. I'm going to see that she gets justice, for she is wearing me out with her constant coming!' "⁶ Then the Lord said, "If even an evil judge can be worn down like that,⁷ don't you think that God will surely give justice to his people who plead with him day and night? Luke 18:3-7 (Living)

¹⁷ Listen closely to what I am about to say. Hear me out.

¹⁸ "This is my case: *I know that I am righteous.*

¹⁹ Who can argue with me over this? If you could prove me wrong, I would stop defending myself and die. Job 13:17-19 (Living)

²⁰ My friends scoff at me, but I pour out my tears to God,

²¹ pleading that he will listen as a man would listen to his neighbor. Job 16:20-21 (Living)

²⁹ So God heeded Abraham's plea and kept Lot safe, removing him from the maelstrom of death that engulfed the cities.

Gen 19:29 (Living)

^{18,19} But because you were sorry and concerned and humbled yourself before the Lord when you read the book and its warnings that this land would be cursed and become desolate, and because you have torn your clothing and wept before me in contrition, I will listen to your plea.
2 Kings 22:18 (Living)

¹⁴ So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel and 70,000 men died as a result.¹⁵ During the plague God sent an Angel to destroy Jerusalem; but then he felt such compassion that he changed his mind and commanded the destroying Angel, "Stop! It is enough!"¹⁶ When David saw the Angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth with his sword drawn, pointing toward Jerusalem, he and the elders of Israel clothed themselves in sackcloth and fell to the ground before the Lord.¹⁷ And David said to God, "I am the one who sinned by ordering the census. But what have these sheep done? O Lord my God, destroy me and my family, but do not destroy your people."²⁷ Then the Lord commanded the Angel to put back his sword into its sheath;²⁸ and when David saw that the Lord had answered his plea, he sacrificed to him again. 1 Chron 21:14-28 (Living)

¹⁰ Warnings from the Lord were ignored by both Manasseh and his people.¹¹ So God sent the Assyrian armies, and they seized him with hooks and bound him with bronze chains and carted him away to Babylon.¹² Then at last he came to his senses and cried out humbly to God for help.¹³ And the Lord listened and answered his plea by returning him to Jerusalem and to his kingdom! 2 Chron 33:10-13 (Living)

REJECTED APPEALS

²³⁻²⁵ "At that time I (MOSES) made this plea to God: 'O Lord God, please let me cross over into the Promised Land--the good land beyond the Jordan River with its rolling hills--and Lebanon. I want to see the result of all the greatness and power you have been showing us; for what God in all of heaven or earth can do what you have done for us?'

²⁶ "But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not let me cross over. 'Speak of it no more,' he ordered, Deut 3:23-26 (Living)

¹⁶ David begged him to spare the child and went without food, and lay all night before the Lord on the bare earth.

¹⁷ The leaders of the nation pleaded with him to get up and eat with them, but he refused.¹⁸ Then, on the seventh day, the baby died. 2 Sam 12:16-18 (Living)

When should we appeal to an authority?

1. When we are asked to do evil
2. When our authority is about to do evil

How should we appeal?

- 1. We must be in right standing**
 - a. be under authority
 - b. not have a history of complaining
 - c. confess any wrongdoing on your part
- 2. We must have the right motives**
 - a. manipulation is evil
 - b. what best for everyone, not just me
 - c. how will this benefit my leader
- 3. At the right time**
 - a. privately— never before an audience
 - b. without other distractions
 - c. wait till your leader is receptive
- 4. Give accurate facts and information**
 - a. don't leave out important details
 - b. include alternate perceptions of the situation
- 5. With the right attitude**
 - a. a bad attitude can mask the facts
 - b. an angry disposition does not help
 - c. communicate loyalty, and gratefulness regardless of the outcome
- 6. With appropriately selected words**
 - a. avoid inflammatory remarks that cause unnecessary reactions
 - b. separate personal opinion from the facts
 - c. never challenge authority
- 7. Have the right response if it's rejected**
 - a. Being Godly is more important than being right
 - b. a right spirit will validate the issue
 - c. a wrong spirit will ruin your witness

APPEALING TO AUTHORITY:

Biblical examples:

Nehemiah —asked the king for permission to rebuild	Neh. 2:3-8
Joseph —regained his honor and freedom after waiting 2 years	Gen. 40:14,15
Ruth —won the heart of her mother in law and the hand of a life partner	Ruth 1:16,17
Esther —saved the nation of Israel	Esther 4:16
Daniel —was able to obey God	Dan. 2:14-16
Moses —saved the nation of Israel	Exod. 32:11,14
Prodigal son —restored his place in the family and saved from starvation	Luke 15:18-21
Jacob —life was spared from his older brothers wrath	Gen. 33:3,4
Balaam's donkey —spared him from an angel of death	Num. 22: 28-31
Nathan —asked the king to consider his actions	2 Sam. 12:1-13
Paul —asked the courts to weigh his right to testify	Acts 25:10-12
David —asked the king if he could defend the nations honor	1 Sam. 17:32-37
Joab —asked David not to mourn Absolem , he spared an uprising	2 Sam. 19:1-8