

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984

ORDAINED AUTHORITY

STUDY GUIDE



ORDAINED AUTHORITY

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 11:3-15

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

John 10:1-5, 25-27

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers...Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ...

THEME

There is a divine order of authority, and neither the home nor the church can operate properly until this authority is followed. Modern society objects to authority; consequently, we are plagued with disorder and rebellion. It is imperative for Christians to submit to the ordained authority stipulated in God's Word.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Authority is an unpopular word in our society.
- B. Rebellion is rampant because authority is not properly exercised.
- C. Because of the damage done through abusive authority, many are disenchanted with all authority.
- D. Authority is necessary; however, authority that is not properly executed does more harm than good.
- E. The Church of Jesus Christ cannot properly operate and function until God's divine authority is restored.
- F. As Christians, we must submit to the authority of God's Word, and we must also use His Word to govern our lives.
- G. Parents must submit to legitimate authority for the sake of their children, who, in turn, should obey their parents.
- H. "Refer" is a word used in this study to deal with the act of appealing to another for judgment or decision in a matter.
- I. In this study the words "head" and "authority" will be used interchangeably.
- J. It is imperative that we understand the true meaning of authority; otherwise, people will abuse the positions of authority.
 - 1. The Greek word *exousia* (ex-oo-see'-ah) is equivalent to the English word "authority." It has been translated as both authority and power. Basically, it means the right to exercise power.
 - 2. One who is in a position of authority has the right and responsibility to make decisions concerning anything that affects his/her sphere of authority.
 - 3. To prevent the abuse of authority, we must understand that authority speaks of one's responsibility and accountability.
 - 4. One who is in authority is responsible for doing the will of God as he/she fulfills his duties.

5. One who is in a position of authority must respond to his/her duties according to his/her ability. His/her response must not be self-seeking; he/she should do what is in the best interest of all concerned.
6. One who is in authority is accountable to the authority over him/her. To this authority he/she must give an account for how he/she has used his/her ability.
7. When we realize that authority makes one responsible and accountable, both the authority and those under the authority will become more respectful and thoughtful as they perform their duties.
8. Authorities are not to be dictators; they are messengers. They are responsible for carrying out the will of the one whom they represent.
9. Abuse of authority is a reproach against God and detrimental to His purpose.
10. All positions of authority should be governed by the Word and Spirit of God.

II. GOD'S DIVINE ORDER OF AUTHORITY

- A. God is the supreme and absolute authority or Head.
- B. Jesus Christ is the authority or Head of the Church.
- C. God is the authority or Head of Jesus Christ.
- D. Jesus is the authority or Head of man.
- E. The husband is the authority or head of the wife.
 1. "Husband" and "wife" relate to positions rather than persons; God ordained these two positions.
 2. Most of us choose the person for the position of husband or wife without consulting God.
 3. The guidelines for the positions of husband and wife are not affected by the persons filling the positions.

F. The husband is the head of the wife, just as Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. (Ephesians 5:23)

1. In this relationship, Jesus is seen as the husband and the Church as the wife.
2. This pattern of authority follows a divine order.
3. Jesus, as Head of the Church, conveys a message to both husbands and wives; He does not release wives from submitting to their husbands but emphasizes through context the importance of submission.
4. Ephesians chapter five also gives insight into the roles of the husband and wife.
5. The husband must submit to his Head, Jesus. He is to love (affectionate and tender towards) his wife and to promote her growth and development.
6. The wife is to submit herself to her husband, recognizing his responsibility and accountability to Jesus. She is to assist him as he carries out the mandates of God.
7. Just as the wife is not independent of her husband, the Church is not independent of Jesus.
8. The purpose of the husband/wife relationship is to produce a godly seed. (Malachi 2:15)
9. The husband/wife union can produce what neither the man or woman is capable of producing alone.

G. The parents are the authority or head of the children.

III. GOD CREATED ACCORDING TO HIS AUTHORITATIVE ORDER

- A. From the beginning, God's creation depicts Father God ruling over all creation.
- B. Colossians 1:16-17 depicts Jesus as being active in creation yet operating under the authority of the Father.
- C. Man was created before woman. (I Timothy 2:13)

1. Genesis 1:26 speaks of man, or Adam, as being made in the image of God.
2. Adam reflected God's glory. (I Corinthians 11:7)
 - a. Reflect means "to form an image" or "to mirror."
 - b. In order to reflect or mirror an image, one must stand before the object he wishes to reflect.
 - b. Man is to reflect the image of Jesus; therefore, he must get into the presence of Jesus before he can mirror the true image of Him.
3. Genesis 1:27 and 2:7 portrays the male as being created before the female.

D. The woman was taken from the man.

1. Genesis 2:21-24 is a graphic view of the woman being built from Adam's rib.
2. "Woman" was not created from the dust of the ground; she was built **from** man, **for** man.
3. The wife, therefore, does not reflect the glory of God but rather the glory of her husband. (I Corinthians 11:7)
 - a. We have already learned that "to mirror" is one the definitions of reflect.
 - b. The wife should be a mirror that reveals the attributes of her husband.
 - c. Submission gives a true reflection; obstinateness and rebellion give a distorted image.
 - d. Rebellion is refusal to reflect the image of the authority over you.

E. God created man, then woman; the name God called them is significant.

1. Genesis 5:2 says that God called **their** name Adam.

2. Because the woman was taken **from** man and given **to** man, there was no apparent need for a separate identity.
 3. When a man and woman are united in marriage, the wife should take her husband's name; she does not need a separate identity. The wife is to identify with her husband.
 4. Divorce is the result of a divided union; rebellion against God-ordained authority produces disunity.
- F. After creating man and woman, God told them to reproduce.
1. Children are the offspring of their parents, thereby bringing glory to the parents.
 2. Because both man and woman are involved in the reproduction of children, both have authority over the children.
 3. The parental authority must be in agreement, otherwise confusion will arise in the home.
 4. A key point to remember in parental authority is "refer." The authority of the woman is her husband; the authority of the husband is Jesus.
 5. When one partner is strong in discipline and the other partner is weak in discipline, division and confusion will come to the home. Unless God's ordained authority is followed, the house will be divided.
 6. When in doubt, refer....
- G. Even in creation, God followed His structure of authority and created in a systematic way.
- H. God's order of authority is: God - Jesus - man - wife - children.

IV. SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY

- A. Jesus always submitted to the authority of His Father.
1. Jesus came to earth to do the will of His Father. (Hebrews 10:7)

2. John 5:30 is a classic example of Jesus' submission to His Father.
 3. God the Father **ruled** and **reigned** in the heart of Jesus; consequently, Jesus always **submitted** to every desire of the Father.
 4. When tempted, Jesus referred to God through the written Word and declared, "It is written."
 5. Jesus agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane until He brought His soul into subjection to the will of His Father.
- B. Man must submit to the authority and Lordship of Jesus.
1. Jesus is the Head or authority of man.
 2. Man can either submit to the authority of Jesus, or he can rebel against it.
 3. Any man who is not submissive to God's Word has not submitted to the Lordship of Jesus; consequently, he is in rebellion.
 4. All believing men know that Christ is their Head, and they readily accept that fact even though they do not implement it.
 5. Many men have not disciplined themselves to the point that Christ is, in reality, the absolute authority over them.
 6. When a man submits to God's Word and follows the leading of God's Spirit, he is truly operating under authority.
 7. Whether one chooses to submit or to rebel does not change the fact that Christ is the Head of man.
 8. A man who promotes himself is not under authority.
- C. According to the Word of God, the wife must submit to her husband. (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18)
1. A woman who will not submit to the God-ordained authority of her husband is not submitted to Christ.

2. A woman who will not operate under the God-ordained authority of her husband is a disgrace to him. (I Corinthians 11:5-6)
3. When God-ordained authority over the wife is taught or brought to our attention, rebellion often occurs. This rebellion may be prompted by inaccurate teaching, abusive authority, or a prideful attitude.
4. The husband's authority over his wife is an asset to her when it is properly executed, although most women are not aware of this truth. Ignorance of the Scriptures and ungodly counsel have blinded women to the truth.
5. A wife who seeks to please the Lord will not seek independence from God-ordained authority.
6. The woman was made for the man. A wife was not made to be independent of her husband; the husband and wife should be interdependent.

D. Children must submit to the authority of their parents.

1. Parents are responsible for training their children properly.
2. Parents must demonstrate submission by being submissive.
3. Obedience must be required by the parents, and disobedience must be punished.
 - a. The Greek word *hupakouo* (hoop-ak-oo'-o), which is translated as "obey," means to hear under. The suggestion of this definition is hear, submit, then obey.
 - b. Children are **commanded** to obey their parents (in the Lord). (Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20)
4. God has given parents many instructions to aid and assist them in rearing their children; consequently, parents are responsible for applying these instructions. (Proverbs 3:21-24; Proverbs 19:18; Proverbs 22:6 & 15; Proverbs 23:13 & 14; Proverbs 29:15 & 17)
5. These comments apply only to children who are scripturally obligated to submit to their parents.

- a. Children who are grown and married are no longer under the jurisdiction or authority of the parents.
- b. Sin is always contrary to the Scripture; consequently, children are not expected to obey sinful desires of parents.

E. Submission is not a weakness; it is a strength.

- 1. The Greek word *hupotasso* (hoop-ot-as'-so), which is translated as "submit," means to subordinate. It is a military term meaning to rank under.
 - a. *Hupo* means under; *tasso* means to arrange.
 - b. We are responsible for placing ourselves under authority.
- 2. The husband must submit himself to Jesus, thereby placing himself under the authority of God's Word.
- 3. A wife is to submit, or place herself under God's appointed authority, which is her husband. (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18)
- 4. The children are to submit, or place themselves under God's appointed authority, which is their parents.
- 5. Submission is basically the act of one's will.
- 6. Submission is seen more in attitude than action.
- 7. One may fear the consequences and obey, yet never submit-even while obeying.

F. "Referral" is a protection, not a bondage.

G. Usurping authority is a violation of God's order; therefore, it cannot and will not be beneficial.

V. SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES FOR ORDAINED AUTHORITY

A. I Corinthians 11:3-15 reveals God's ordained authority.

- 1. The Greek word *kephale* (kef-al-ay'), which is translated as "head," means head, both literally and figuratively.

2. Both the physical head and the position of authority are being dealt with in these verses.
 3. Praying and prophesying must be done only by those in subjection to authority.
 4. The man reflects God's glory; the woman reflects her husband's glory. (Proverbs 12:4)
 5. The woman was taken from the man at creation; the man was not taken from the woman.
 6. The wife was created for the husband; the husband was not created for the wife.
 7. Neither husband nor wife is independent of the other; they complete each other.
 8. The woman is of the man; the man is by the woman.
 9. Nature itself teaches the covering of authority.
- B. Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:7,15-24 also reveal truths concerning God's ordained authority.
1. God's creation of man reveals important truths concerning authority.
 2. Adam was given the responsibility of guarding and keeping the Garden of Eden. He was the **porter** of the garden.
 3. Man was created first; afterward, he named the animals. Finally, God created woman.
 4. Woman was created **from** man, **for** man.
 5. The rib taken from Adam was presented back to him in the form of a woman, who was designed to complete him.
- C. Genesis 3:1-6 reveals a breach in authority.
1. The porter did not do his job.
 - a. A porter is one who is in charge of a gate or door. He is responsible and accountable for allowing or disallowing entry.

- b. Adam was given the responsibility of guarding the Garden of Eden.
 - c. Adam had the right and responsibility to drive the serpent from the garden, but he did not exercise his authority; consequently, the woman was left unprotected.
 - 2. The woman operated independently when she did not refer to the man.
 - 3. The man, too, operated independently when he did not refer to his Head, God.
 - 4. The Word of God was ignored, and flesh gained the preeminence.
 - 5. Today, authority is often ignored; consequently, we reap the harvest of our disobedience.
- D. Genesis 5:1-2 allows us to look at the husband and wife from God's perspective.
 - 1. God made Adam in His own likeness.
 - 2. God created woman from man.
 - 3. God called their name Adam.
 - 4. God did not create two entities to be separate and independent.
 - 5. God saw man and woman as one flesh, operating in absolute unity, rather than acting independently of each other.
 - 6. When the woman operated independently of the man, a separate entity came forth--Eve.
 - 7. The name "Eve" is not mentioned until after the fall of man. (Genesis 3:20)
 - 8. God's divine plan is that the husband and wife be recognized as one rather than two.
 - 9. If we would recognize the husband and wife as one, we would eliminate division, divorce, unfaithfulness, etc.

10. In order for the husband and wife to be recognized as one, they must be one in vision and purpose.
- E. Ephesians 5:22-33 is God's pattern for the husband-wife relationship.
1. This scripture teaches submission to the Head of the Church.
 2. It also teaches submission to immediate authority.
 3. The husband - wife relationship illustrates, by analogy, the relationship between Jesus and the Church.
 - a. Jesus (husband) is the Head of the Church (wife).
 - b. Jesus is submitted to His heavenly Father.
 - c. The Church must submit to the authority of Jesus.
 - d. Jesus loves and cares for the Church.
 - e. The Church must adapt Herself to Jesus, aiding and assisting Him in His mission.
 4. The husband is to submit to his Head, Jesus, by obeying the Word.
 5. Men are to love their wives as themselves. (They are one entity.)
 6. The wife is to subordinate and adapt herself to her husband, thereby submitting to the Lordship of Jesus.
- F. Colossians 3:17-20 also provides a good example of the proper husband-wife relationship.
1. The wife should submit to her husband, thereby fulfilling her scriptural duty.
 2. Husbands are to love their wives. They must not become bitter or resentful toward their wives.
 3. Children are to obey their parents (both, not just one) in all things (except sin).
- G. I Peter 3:1-7 is sound instruction to both husbands and wives.

1. Wives are instructed to become subordinate and adaptable to their husbands.
2. The wife, through proper conduct, may win her husband to the Lord.
3. Observe the example of submission when Sarah called Abraham "lord" (supreme in authority).
4. Husbands are instructed to be considerate of their wives.

H. Mark 3:25 teaches that a house divided cannot stand.

1. The husband and wife must be in agreement, aligning their lives to God's Word.
2. The principle of two agreeing should operate between husbands and wives. (Amos 3:3; Matthew 18:19)
3. There must be a scriptural understanding of God's divine order of authority.
4. There must be no division in the discipline of the children.

VI. AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH

- A. Jesus is Head of the Church.
- B. Each local assembly should have an overseer appointed by the Holy Spirit.
- C. All church ministries and gifts must operate under the oversight of the bishop (Senior Minister). (Hebrews 13:7 and 17; Numbers 4; I Chronicles 15)
- D. God's ordained order of authority, which is Jesus - man - wife - children, is not laid aside in the church; rather, it must be followed so that everything can be done decently and in order.
- E. Jesus is the Head of His Body; therefore, the Body of Christ must always refer to the Word of God. (Each born-again member of the Body must refer to the Head of the Church.)

1. The husband must always refer to God's Word in all decision-making and conduct. (He must not substitute the desires of his wife and children for the Word of God or the Spirit of God.)
2. The wife must submit to the authority of her husband, but she should never disobey God's Word.
3. Children must submit to the authority of the parents in everything, except sin.

F. Everything should be done properly, following correct protocol.

VII. AUTHORITY IN GOVERNMENT

A. Governmental authority is ordained by God.

1. God's ordained authority relates to position or office; however, we must remember that people fill these offices or positions.
2. People can pervert authority by abusing the office, but abuse does not nullify the authority of the office.
3. When people follow God's governmental authority, the blessing of God will be enjoyed; when people violate God's governmental authority, detrimental consequences follow.
4. God has a predetermined order of government, and He knows who should be in each position.
5. People can usurp God's plan of government and establish their own government to their own hurt. (I Samuel 8)
 - a. God's government is always a theocracy.
 - b. God wants to lead us by His Spirit.

B. Romans 13:1-8 gives us an excellent explanation of authority and what our attitude should be toward it.

1. We are subject to higher powers; therefore, we must submit or yield to superior authority. (No one is exempt from authority.)
2. God is the source of all authority.

3. The existing authorities are appointed by God.
 4. Governmental authority exists to keep the souls of men in control. (One who is not led by the spirit is led by the soul; therefore, restraint is needed.)
 5. One who resists governmental authority is resisting God's appointed authority. (Those who resist legitimate authority will suffer the consequences.)
 6. The ruling authorities are appointed to suppress evil, not good.
 7. If we obey the authorities, we have nothing to fear.
 8. Civil rulers are called God's ministers (*diakonos*).
 9. The ruler's authority should be obeyed, but God's Word must not be violated. (Daniel 3)
 10. Our reason for submitting to authority should not be merely to keep out of trouble, but rather to obey and submit to God.
 11. We are to pay our taxes, we must show respect, and we are to esteem and honor those to whom esteem and honor are due. We are to pay all bills promptly. We are to love one another.
- C. The soul of man must be controlled, either by himself or by a higher authority.
1. Man has much difficulty with his soul.
 2. The reborn spirit is willing to please God, but the unrenewed mind will rebel against God.
 3. A man led by the Spirit will bishop his soul and submit to ordained authority.
 4. A man who is not led by the Spirit will not bishop his soul; therefore, he will have problems with authority.
- D. When it is necessary for the "authority" to bishop one's soul, rebellion often occurs.

- E. Titus 3:1 emphasizes submission to rulers and those in authority.
 - 1. We must submit to and obey those in authority, but Jesus' authority must not be usurped in the process.
 - 2. We are not to speak evil of the rulers. (Acts 23:1-5)
 - 3. We are to submit to those in authority, but we are not to obey commands to sin.
- F. We are to pray for those in authority, recognizing this responsibility as a priority. (I Timothy 2:1-3)

VIII. SUMMARY

- A. All authority is ordained by God, whether it be in the home, church, or government.
- B. We must submit to authority. When in doubt, refer.
- C. Rebellion against authority is rebellion against God.
- D. God's divine order of authority is: God - Jesus - man - wife - parents - children.
- E. Jesus is the Head of the Church; therefore, all believers must submit to God's Word.
- F. One who is not in submission to his immediate authority is not in submission to God.
- G. One who is not submitted to God is submitted to the devil. (James 4:7)
- H. God has never violated His ordained authority; neither should His creation.
- I. We must submit to authority, while always referring to God's Word.
- J. God's authority must be followed in the home, in the church, and in government.

IX. CONCLUSION

- A. God wants everything to be done properly, following correct protocol.
- B. Under no circumstance will God alter His authority.
- C. We must remember the difference between submission and obedience--submission is an attitude; obedience is an act.
- D. If we will follow God's ordained authority in all aspects of our lives, we will enjoy the following benefits: our home life will be more peaceful; the church will become more effective; and the government will operate more efficiently.
- E. Let us submit to God by submitting to God-ordained authority, by resisting the devil, and by drawing near to God in close communion and fellowship with Him.
- F. If man would submit to his Head, Jesus, and allow the Holy Spirit to show him the woman God wants him to marry, domestic problems and contentions would be minimized.
- G. If the local assemblies would submit to the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal who the leaders of the assembly should be, problems in the church would be minimized.
- H. If Christians would submit to the Head of the Church and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal which governmental officials to place in office, governmental problems would be minimized.
- I. The reason for many problems in the family, the church, and the government today is the believer's lack of submission to God's ordained authority.
- J. God is calling for order in every facet of our lives.
- K. We must follow God's ordained authority, and we must never break rank!