

Being Faithful in an *Un*Faithful World!

Authority & Responsibility

August 2nd, 2009

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority
is rebelling against what God has instituted,
and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
Romans 13:2

3 Purposes for Authority:

1 - To Grow in Wisdom and Character

Luke 2:49-52 "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they didn't understand what he meant. Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

2 - To Gain Protection from Destructive Temptations

Matthew 6:13-15 And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

3 - To Receive Clear Direction for life Decisions

Matthew 8:8-10 But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!

The Breakdown of Authority...

Wounded Spirit: Communication breakdown

Hebrews 12:15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Feelings of Alienation: Ungratefulness

"One of the chief characteristics of ungratefulness is that 'society' owes you a living."

Rejection of Authority: Stubbornness

1 Samuel 15:23a Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

Self Authority: Open Rebellion

"The basis of Satan's rebellion and downfall was his desire to be on an equal level with God"

Drawn to those of like spirit: Wrong Friends

Philippians 3:19 They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful

things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

Relative Standard: The flesh at work

Galatians 5:19-21 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Deep Sense of Guilt: Condemn Others

Romans 2:1 You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.

Depression: Self Destructive

Proverbs 14:13 Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains.

Job 10:1 "I am disgusted with my life. Let me complain freely. My bitter soul must complain.