



AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION

Romans 13:1-5





Introduction

What is Authority?

- Authority is the right or power to enforce obedience.
- It is also means **to take charge of** or **to be in control of**. Mk 1: 27, Matt. 8:8-9, Mt. 7:29
- The word authority is gotten from a Greek word **Exousia** which could also be translated as jurisdiction, liberty, right or strength.





Who has Authority?

- God, and anyone to whom God has given authority Ps. 62:11, Rm. 13:1-2 i.e. God is the ultimate source of all power and authority Col. 1:16-17.
- Therefore, respecting godly authority means respecting God Himself.
- Examples of those to whom God has given authority include parents, leaders, elders, rulers, bosses, government officials, church leaders etc.





- There is a hierarchical structure in heaven: We have God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, followed by The Four Living Beings, Twenty-Four Elders, the Arch Angels, The Cherubim and Seraphim and then the ordinary Angels.
- As it is in heaven so also it is here on earth 1 Cor. 15:41. In the Redeemed Christian Church of God, we have hierarchy for the sake of orderliness.



How should you respond to Godly Authority? Heb. 13:17

- The Bible says that we are to submit to godly authority.
- To submit means to yield control to another.
- Rebellion against godly authority is not tolerated in God's army and is likened to the sin of witchcraft 1 Sam. 15:23.
- Jesus is an excellent example of submission Phil 2:5-11





What is the primary cause of rebellion and a rebellious and contentious spirit? Prov. 13:10

- The Bible says that **pride** is the primary cause of rebellion and contentiousness.
- As Christians, we are expected to be of a humble spirit and to submit to godly authority 1 Pet. 5:5.
- Rebellion against godly authority is rebellion against God Himself because He is the source of authority.





Can authority be abused? Jer. 12:10

- Yes, and as a worker, as you progress through the hierarchy of the RCCG, you should be mindful of how you use your God-given authority.



Examples of those who used their God-given authority wrongly and the consequences include:

Name	Action	Consequence
Kohath, Dathan and Abiram Numbers 16:1-4, 28-33	They used their God-given authority to lead Israelites in a rebellion against Moses	God killed them
David 1 Sam. 14:14-17, 2 Sam. 12:10-11	He used his God-given authority to have Uriah killed	God cursed him and his household
Lucifer Isaiah 14:12-17	He used his God-given authority to lead angels in a rebellion against God	He got sent out of Heaven, destined to an eternity in Hell
Uzziah 2 Chron. 26:16-21	He tried to use his God-given authority to perform the duties of a priest which God had permitted only His priests to perform	He got struck with leprosy



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- You should only use the authority that God gives you to do what God wants you to do.
- Matt. 4:3-4 shows that the enemy can try to tempt us to use our God-given authority wrongfully.
- Like Jesus did, we too can avoid falling prey of the temptation to abuse God-given authority by staying humble in heart and obedient to God's Word.





How should you respond to an erring superior?

- In a situation where a superior is perhaps out of order and errant, the Bible forbids you from rebuking or talking rudely to such a leader 1 Tim. 5:1, Jude 9.
- Rather, you should pray for him/her, asking that God would open his/her eyes of understanding and have mercy on such a leader, even if such a leader mistreats you Matt. 5:38-39.
- You could also take the case of the leader to a higher authority.
- This action should be done out of love for the leader and could also help you see things from a different perspective.





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Some other consequences of disobeying godly authority include the following:

- There could be a loss of God-given authority 1 Sam 15:23
- Demonic affliction could follow 1 Sam. 16:14
- Distress Jonah 1: 3-4, 10-12
- Sickness and disease could result e.g. Gehazi 2 Kings 5:15-27
- Curses could set in Gen 49:3-4
- Defeat Joshua 7:1,5
- Death 1 Samuel 3:12-13,4:18
- Because of the law of harvest, such a person will also be rebelled against in the future Gal. 6:7



Conclusion

- Workers are expected to be examples to the general congregation in submission.
- As a worker, you are expected to submit to the biblical leadership of the church and not be rebellious.
- Q & A

Prayers:

- Ask God to search you and take away any form of pride that can lead to rebellion which ultimately leads to destruction.