

GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITY

All authority begins with God

In the beginning, God...(Gen1:1)

*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
(John 1:3)*

O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. (2 Chron 20:6)

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God... (Rom 13:1-2a)

Resistance to authority is resistance to God

Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making say, 'He has no hands'? Isaiah 45:9

Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Rom 13:2-4

We must be subject to authority

Therefore you must be subject [to obey, to submit], not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. Rom 13:5

- Because “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 9:10)
- Because submission leads to blessing “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)

What is government?

- Exercise of authority in a political unit. Politics is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations among individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status
- Leaders of people leading, governing, ruling, setting a course for the whole
- God’s method for the establishing and maintaining of good in the earth, and order and peacefulness.

Forms of government (and therefore, authority)

- Family - our first government
 - The Biblical (God given) administrative and supervisory unit
 - Family government is, more than anything else, total life government. It's the original Department of Health, Education, and Welfare! The family governs relationships, conduct, finances, education, worship, work, property, and almost anything else you can name. (taken from an article in Chalcedon.edu)

- Structure of family government (Eph 5:22-6:4)
 - *The husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her; fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*
 - *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord; the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything; see that she respects her husband.*
 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*

- Ecclesiastical
 - Leadership comes from giftings (Eph 4:11-12) 1 Peter 5:1-11)
 - *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*

 - Facilitated by elders serving as shepherd overseers (1 Peter 5:1-5)
 - *The elders who are among you I exhort...Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock*
 - *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.*

 - Established by the Word of God (Heb 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5-6)
 - *Obey those who rule over (lead, induce, bring forth) you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.*

- *Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*
 - *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time*

- Civil
 - Local and national officials (1 Pet 2:13-17)
 - *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God...Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*

 - Master/employers (1 Pet 2:18-21; Col 3:22-24)
 - *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully...For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps*
 - *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*