

Introduction

1. Sir Richard Branson (PIC)

(1) ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder)

(2) Why do we have such a problem w/ authority?

2. Under the Sun means to be under authority

(1) Common Grace

I. The Distinctions of Authority (v2)

1. Authority "under the sun" (v2a)

Those under authority are accountable to God for their responses to authority. Since God placed authorities over us, to obey them is to submit to God's design and authority in our lives

Those in authority are accountable for how they exercise their authority. They are responsible to provide protection and direction for those under their care, to punish those who do wrong, and to praise those who do well.

(1) Family

Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord...

Ephesians 6:1-2 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"...

+ We would rather have more broken families, than authority

(2) Government

1 Peter 2:13-14 - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

+ Even a broken system is better than no system

(3) Church

Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account...

+ You can't know God w/o church authority

(4) Work

Colossians 3:22 - Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

+ Productivity requires accountability

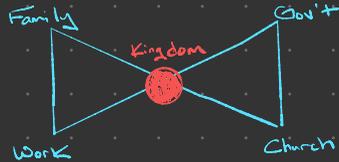
2. Authority "in heaven" (v 2b)

Romans 13:1 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Under
the sun
but under
authority

(1) Authority is an intersection

Image =



(2) Authority is a reflection

By virtue of Who He is as creator of all things, God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. He has all power and all authority, and He entrusts roles of leadership to individuals in the family, the church, the workplace, and the government.

The orderliness we find in structures of authority reflects the order of God's own nature.

God is a Trinity: the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The Father sent the Son into the world as Savior and Redeemer. (See I John 4:9.) Jesus was obedient to God the Father. (See John 5:19.)

When Jesus returned to heaven, He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to comfort Jesus' disciples, lead them in all truth, remind them of the words of Jesus, and empower them to carry out Jesus' commission to spread the Gospel. (See John 14:26, 15:26, and Acts 1:8.)

(3) Functioning in / under
authority

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- + For the Lord's glory
- + From the Lord's reward
- + In the Lord's service

II. The Limitations of Authority (v6-a)

1. Authority Has Limited Span (v6-7)

(1) Unrighteous Authority won't remain

Prov. 29:2 - When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan...

1 Cor. 15:24 - Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

+ Shows we need more Jesus

(2) Righteous Authority won't sustain

2. Authority Has Limited Scope (v8-a)

(1) Authority that violates scope, violates people (va)

(2) Abuse of Authority

+ In authority, but not under authority (ie. husbands)

+ Authority - responsibility (ie. bosses)

+ Responsibility - authority

Sexual / Physical Abuse
Scope of body

Dan. 7:14 - And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

III. The Functions of Authority (v 3-5)

1. Authority Produces Humility (v 3-4)

(1) Humility = humus = earth
Literally = "on the ground"

Genesis 2:7 - then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature

(2) Pride = Hebrew = Ga'oon = Height

Genesis 2:16-17 - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

(3) The tree was a reminder of their place

1 Pet. 5:5-6 - Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you...

2. Authority Reveals Maturity (v 5)

(1) Witness (1 Pet. 2:13-21)

+ Freedom, Honor, Love (v 16-17)

+ Suffering (v 18-21)

(2) Display Jesus' Character

Titus 3:1-2 - Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Conclusion

Ephesians 2:1-7 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:18–20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”