We Believe in God's Authority

Outline available at JohnLongwell.com

I. Welcome to Revive from your bedroom

A. Word 'authority' conjures up feelings of (oooh, instant rebellion)

1. Someone cuts us off, then cop pulls them over, feel justified

2. Cop pull you over, lets you off, we feel relieved

B. At age 26 dad died, so Godly men mentored me (pastors, elders)

1. Shared struggles, received counsel & prayer from men in authority

2. A benefit from this submission was a promotion to senior pastor

3. Accountability to authority opened up opportunities

4. This covering provides: protection, provision and promotion

II. Overview of Authority

A. God has all authority

Romans 13.1 For there is no authority except from God

B. God gave Jesus all authority

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

1. Jesus was subject to His Father's authority (in what he said).

John 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

2. In what he did.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

C. Jesus gives us power and authority

Luke 9:1-2 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

1. Power: (dunamis [grk]: physical power, force, might, ability)
2. Authority (exousia [grk]: delegated power, weight, power to act)
3. $100 paycheck taken by power and then authority

D. Power and Authority don't always work together.

1. Power: the ability to direct or control.
2. Authority: the legitimate (by rule or law) right to direct or control.
3. A Misuse of power happens when it acts outside of authority.

III. The Believer's Use of God's Authority in Response

A. The same as Jesus, (only say and do as God [the Bible] outlines)

B. Carefully and with discernment

1. Beware of doctrines that have no legitimate authority

Colossians 2:8-10 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

2. Consider the source (bias) of information we hear, read or watch

C. We are to be subject to the governing authorities

1 Peter 2:13-17 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to

silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1. We don't have to agree with the authority to submit to it
2. But Disagreeing & acting outside of God's authority, yields judgment

John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son

Romans 13:1-3 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. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

3. We are not to judge others, this is reserved for Christ

1 Corinthians 4:4-5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

IV. What should we do in light of an evil ruler?

A. Everything you can under the authority of God.

1. As Mark said last Sunday, Fasting (digs the hole) & prayer (fills it).
2. Seek change under God's established authorities (vote).

B. Once you've done all you can, then Stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

1. Follow the example of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 3 *(abridged for time)* King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits (90 feet) and its breadth six cubits (9 feet). He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or

worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. 22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” 25 He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. 28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

2. The 3 disobeyed Nebuchadnezzar under God’s authority
3. Don’t disobey out of frustration or impatience.
4. God’s authority is preserving a place for those not yet under it.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.