

Believe God More

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Introduction.

A. Henrietta Mears is the best recruiter of ministers I have ever met.

1. She said if she had her life to live over she would believe God more.
2. I can say the same; I wish I had believed God more.

B. The greatest test of faith is not to trust him for material things, but for men.

1. We need to work with men.
2. Jesus is after laborers.
3. I have spent too much time on organizational problems and the solution to these problems will solve themselves if we have the right people.

I. We talked about authority as the right to decide or to take action.

A. In an ordered universe there is submission and authority with 7 relationships.

B. We also said that all authority is limited.

1. Satan's authority is limited.
2. Mans authority is limited.
3. All relationships that involve authority have been affected by sin.
4. The answer to the problem in authority is the Gospel (Acts 2:38)
5. The Gospel affects the whole life, leading to surrender and obedience. (Romans 1 through 8)

II. Now we come to issue of our response to authority.

A. Submission, surrendering of the will.

1. This can be irritating in situations we don't like.
2. The problem comes into play when we want to do something our supervisor disagrees with.
 - a. Wives submit to husbands.
 - b. Children submit to parents.

- c. Employees submit to employers.
- d. Governed submit to government.
- e. Spiritual followers submit to their leaders.

3. We make mistakes along the way because we seek security.

B. How do we submit?

1. All our submission is unto the Lord.

a. This makes all the difference.

b. This is expected even if it's overbearing. (1 Peter 2:18-23)

1. In a voluntary society we sometimes feel the supervision is too harsh.

2. God may want you to endure difficult times, however.

2. We need to submit with humility, not grudgingly.

a. If I obey someone with a bad attitude there is obedience according to the letter of the Law, but not according to the Spirit.

b. It is God's will that we do good and silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

c. Submission in the right spirit is Christlike.

1. Christ submitted without complaining.

2. He willingly did the will of the Father.

3. Jesus our Lord is our example in this.

3. We need to submit expecting power to be with us. (1 Peter 3)

a. The meek inherit the earth.

b. They remain while the unrighteous die.

4. There are times when authority should be resisted.

C. Observations.

1. Submission to authority is part of God's order.

2. All authority is limited.

3. We confuse authority and influence.

4. When an organization demands too much of a person's time that organization exceeds its authority.
5. All of life includes divided loyalties.
 - a. I am loyal to the Navigators.
 - b. I am also loyal to my wife.
 - c. The limits clarify what commitment can be expected from people.

III. The exercise of authority is an important issue.

A. The right to decide and to take action is legitimate and is given as a reward.

1. Jesus told the disciples to not rule over each other like the Gentiles.
2. Authority is God given.
3. The parable of the pounds shows how God views authority. (Luke 19)
 - a. God is interested in character.
 - b. As we develop good character we are rewarded with more authority.

B. The response to authority is the responsibility to perform.

1. God will hold us responsible for our performance.
2. Parents should not provoke children.
3. Husbands honor their wives.
4. Employers should not treat employees harshly.

C. The Biblical guidelines for the proper exercise of authority are important.

1. We need to agree on guidelines.
2. We need to decide who has the authority to make certain decisions.
3. This exercise of authority is dynamic, however, and thus communication is imperative.
4. Authority will be challenged even in the church.
5. Paul told Titus to encourage and rebuke with all authority.
6. Joshua had authority in Israel and God told him to be strong and of good courage.
 - a. Courage means to take a strong grip.

b. Joshua's authority was challenged.

7. Moses has authority in Israel and his authority was challenged. (Numbers 16)

8. Paul had authority in his world and his authority was challenged.

9. Eli did not correct his sons so God removed his authority.

10. Saul was sent on a mission yet he failed to obey and was disciplined for it.

11. We need to function in our God given positions.

D. Observations.

1. Both submission to authority and exercise of authority are required by God.

2. He will hold us accountable.

3. There is an intermediate granting of authority when we submit to each other.

a. Mutual submission makes us all accountable to each other.

b. I am accountable to the board of directors and to the staff.

c. We are all servants of each other.

4. We are accountable up and accountable down.

a. Husbands must treat their wives right so their prayers are not hindered.

b. Wives submit to their husbands as unto the Lord.

c. Parents do not cause their children to lose heart.

d. Children obey in the fear of the Lord.

e. Governed obey the government as to the Lord.

5. A good summary is a statement by Solzhenitsyn who said that power in the hands of some men is a poison, but to one who has faith in a Force that has dominion over all of us power is not a poison but a good force.

E. With this as a background, tomorrow we need to discuss lines of authority, decision making, deciding officials, policy making, etc.

IV. Review.

A. God has spoken to us about many issues.

1. Social justice.

2. Cooperation with other ministries.
3. Un-reached people.
4. Religious pluralism.

B. Cooperation.

1. We are not represented to the scholarly world and should we?
2. We need to address this issue.

C. We focused on our primary aim of laborers for the harvest.

D. Our recommendations contain what and why, but not how.

1. The imperatives are listed first in our documentation.
2. Our needs follow the imperatives.
3. The seven imperatives affect every country.
4. Each imperative has several action steps attached to it.
5. At every level we must act in accordance with the primary goals.
 - a. How do we forward number one?
 - b. Each staff must be accountable to each other that we are moving toward these goals.
 - c. We must personalize and maintain leadership.

V. Close in Prayer.