

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Sermon: God Is the Sovereign Authority, Part 2**

**Topic: There Is No Authority Except from God (A)**

**Scripture Text: Romans 13:1–2**

**01/05/2021**

**Romans 13:1–2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

**God's Ordained Governing Authorities:**

As previously mentioned in the last message, there are at least five levels of governing authorities established by God.

**1. The Sovereign Authority of God And Christ.**

**Sovereignty of God** - God is the supreme authority and all things are under His control. God is the "sovereign Lord of all by an incontestable right [as the] creator . . . owner and possessor of heaven and earth." Sovereignty is an Attribute of God based upon the premise that God as the creator of heaven and earth has absolute right and full authority to do **or allow** whatever He desires.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty\\_of\\_God\\_in\\_Christianity#cite\\_note-4](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty_of_God_in_Christianity#cite_note-4)

*Ephesians 1:11–12 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*

*Romans 9:15 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."*

*1 Timothy 6:15–16 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> which He will manifest in His own time, **He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords** <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (Revelation 19:16)*

**Authority of Jesus Christ**

*Matthew 28:18–19 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"*

*1 Peter 3:22 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> who (Jesus) has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, **angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.***

*Colossians 2:10, 1 Peter 3:22,*

*Revelation 19:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

This title was attributed to God (*1 Timothy 6:15–16*) and given to Jesus after all power and authority was given to Him (*Matthew 28:18*)

## **2 Government or Civil authorities over all citizens**

The main focus of this series will be on Civil/Governmental authority because of our current government leaders and how that authority has affected the other four authorities.

This includes the Patriarchal and Tribal governments. He allowed Kings and rulers (monarchies) but only later for Israel. As from the beginning, God was the supreme power and authority as demonstrated with Egypt.

*Exodus 9:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> **But indeed for this purpose I have raised you (Pharaoh) up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**

Then there were Judges.

*Judges 2:16–17 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> **Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.** <sup>17</sup> **Yet they would not listen to their judges, ...** This implies that the people were to obey the judges.

Then Israel wanted a King. He gave Israel the king of His choosing, Saul, creating a Monarchy.

*1 Samuel 9:17 (NKJV)* <sup>17</sup> **So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people.”**

God later removed the house of Saul in favor of David.

*1 Samuel 13:13–14 (NKJV)* <sup>13</sup> **And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. ... For now, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.** <sup>14</sup> **But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people....”**

God chose David to give the kingdom to him that was once Saul's.

*Samuel 16:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> **So he sent and brought him (David) in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”**

## **3. The Religious Governing all Israel and the Church governing over all believers**

The Religious, including the Levitical Theocracy and the New Testament church was to be the spiritual governors over all believers.

The bible shows a distinct difference between Secular authorities and Religious authorities. Although there is a difference the bible does not support a separation where He is concerned.

### **Old Testament**

God set up the Levitical system beneath His Sovereign authority. This government required the Israelites to obey the commandments, Laws, Ordinances and Statues of God with the priest as administrators.

*Exodus 24:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and **the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.**”*

### **New Testament**

Jesus instituted governance in the church. An example is as follows:

*Matthew 18:15–17 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ <sup>17</sup> And if he refuses to hear them, **tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.***

Obedience and Honor was to be paid to those in church authority given to them by Jesus.

*Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive,** for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Matthew 23:2–3)*

*1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and **are over you in the Lord and admonish you,** <sup>13</sup> and to **esteem them very highly in love** for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

There is no question that there is no authority except that which God has allowed.

The questions often arises, “what if the rulers are crooked, bad or evil? What about Satan and demons?

*Luke 4:5–6 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to Him, “**All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.***

Notice that Satan had the power to give authority to Jesus. Authority can be transferred, even to someone for evil.

*Revelation 13:2 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon (Satan) gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.** (Revelation 12:9)*

All the authority that Satan may have **has been given to him**. If God gives authority to Satan is it unthinkable that He would allow it to be with bad or evil human rulers who may be influenced by Satan?

Have you ever allowed your child to do something that was not your desire for them to do? So that is why I say permission does not mean our will or desire, permissive or otherwise.

Satan has no authority other than that which God gives him. God, the ultimate authority can limit the authority He gives.

*Job 1:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, **all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.**” ....*

*Job 2:6 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> *And the LORD said to Satan, “**Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.”***

Satan could only do to Job what God allowed him to do. In studying this part, it has been said that Satan acted within God’s “Permissive Will.” I don’t think I believe that. What Satan did, God allowed but I do not believe God desired it nor was it His will. Giving permission or allowing something does not mean giving approval.

A very crucial point for me here is that although God **allowed** or **permitted** Satan to do his worse it was **not His desire**.

Definition: Will—used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent, Merriam Webster

#### **4. Parental authority over children with the husband as the head**

The fifth commandment tells children to honor their parents. I believe this includes stepparents, grandparents and those that adopt you.

*Exodus 20:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*

This is the first commandment with promise, the promise of long life. There are so many ways we can honor our parents and they all do not have to be a grand event. Visit them, call them, remember key days like birthdays and anniversaries. Listen to them when we are young for they tell us for our good and listen to them when they are old which makes them feel good and for us to gain wisdom.

This verse is in correlation with the fifth commandment.

*Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> **Children, obey your parents in the Lord,** for this is right. *Col 3:20*

When a wife submits to her husband, she is acknowledging his God given responsibility and hers to obey in the Lord.

*Ephesians 5:22–23 (NKJV)* <sup>22</sup> **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** <sup>23</sup> **For the husband is head of the wife,** as also Christ is head of the church... *(Col 3:18, Titus 2:4)*

*1 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> *But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

Here is a clear example of the chart of authority in the Home.

As you can see, the obedience and the submission is tied to the Lord. This has two connections. One, that obedience and submission should be done in appropriate reverence as being obedient to God. Second, they both should be done, when and in, a manner approved by God. All should be done as a reflection back to God.

I am sure that it is also unsettling to those whose Political party is not in power. That person elected has been called illegitimate and therefore justifies their saying it is not by God. They are wrong. All authority comes from God even if it is given to and evil person who misuses it.

My job is not to question God but to seek the best understanding and obey. If taken at face value, it seems like we are to just go along with whatever those in authority say or do? But looking deeper we can see where conflict with obeying authorities and obeying God can occur. Which authority takes precedence? (*this is a rhetorical question*)

For those of us that want to do that which is RIGHT in the sight of God we must come to a proper understanding of God's expectation in light of the scriptures.

Regardless of how unsettling things may look, God is still in control.

The verse in Romans 13:1 (NKJV) **For there is no authority except from God, ...** is always true.

I do not think that this statement could be denied. God is supreme and sovereign. He has all authority and power. Any and all authority comes from God. This includes the power and authority of Jesus.

I believe that God gives power and authority to man but man misuses it as did and will Satan. *Revelation 13:2 (NKJV)<sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.***

Message Scriptures: **Romans 13:1–2**, *Ephesians 1:11–12*, *Romans 9:15*, *1 Timothy 6:15–16*, *Matthew 28:18–19*, *1 Peter 3:22*, *Colossians 2:10*, *1 Peter 3:22*, *Revelation 19:16*, *1 Timothy 6:15–16*, *Matthew 28:18*, *Exodus 9:16*, *Judges 2:16–17*, *1 Samuel 9:17*, *1 Samuel 13:13–14*, *1 Samuel 16:12*, *Exodus 24:12*, *Matthew 18:15–17*, *Hebrews 13:17*, *1 Thessalonians 5:12–13*, *Luke 4:5–6*, *Revelation 13:2*, *Job 1:12*, *Job 2:6*, *Exodus 20:12*, *Ephesians 6:1*, *1 Corinthians 11:3*, *Revelation 13:2*

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