

to be submissive robots, even when the authorities are blatantly wrong?

There are a few Scriptures (rather rare) that endorse rebellion... Here are some examples that come to mind.

Daniel

"Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."
(Daniel 6:16)

In Daniel's case, the king commanded no prayer to anyone but him. The command was **don't pray to God**, and Daniel rebelled and disobeyed.

Shadrach - Meshach - and Abednego

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. (17) If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 3:16-18)

In the case of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they were told to **worship an idol**. They rebelled against the authority and refused to obey... right to the king's face.

Peter, John, and the apostles

*"But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. (18) And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John answered and said unto them, **Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you***

more than unto God, judge ye." (Acts 4:17-19)

Regarding the apostle's rebellion against authority, they were told **not to preach in the Name of Jesus**.

Similar to the three Hebrew children that faced the furnace, they openly rebuked the authorities... with no concern for the outcome.

CONCLUSION...

If we are going to rebel, we need to be aware of and follow the godly examples from the Bible.

We must consider these Biblical observations:

* Be sure it is **for a godly reason** - Daniel (continuing to pray to God) - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (not worshipping an idol) - Peter and John (continuing to preach in Jesus' Name)

* Be sure we are **ready to take the consequences** (not lawyer up and counter-sue), for example - the lions den - the fiery furnace - beatings (and possible death sentences)

* Most Christians today look for reasons TO REBEL rather than ways TO OBEY... and when their rebellion causes problems... they whine and cry.

Look for ways to OBEY!

Don't look for opportunities to REBEL!

Transformed Living Messages by Robert Dallmann
ChristLife
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: (716) 622-7320
E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net
Visit us at www.Christ-like.net



By: Robert W. Dallmann

Rebel Rebel!

Rebellion is a mainstay of Western society today. Rebellion is in the home, places of employment, entertainment, national forums... rebellion is EVERYWHERE!

Sadly, rebellion against authority is deeply rooted even in the Church. As believers, we should be looking for opportunities to OBEY... but many prefer to seek justification to REBEL!

What does God have to say about authority and rebellion against such authority?

GOD'S AUTHORITY...

*"Saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**'"* (Luke 22:42)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:8)

Observations:

REBEL REBEL

* Submission to authority does not make you less than the authority. Jesus (**God the Son**), submitted to His Father (**God the Father**). Voluntary submission does not make Jesus less God than the Father.

* Submitting to God and then resisting the devil... makes Satan RUN AWAY from you!

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITIES...

*"Remember them which have the **rule over** you, who have **spoken unto you the word of God**: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." (Hebrews 13:7)*

*"Obey your leaders and **submit to them**, for they **keep watch over your souls** as those who will give an account. **Let them do this with joy and not with grief**, for this would be unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17)*

*"But we request of you, brethren, that you **appreciate** those who **diligently labor** among you, and have **charge over** you in the Lord and give you instruction, (13) and that **you esteem them very highly in love** because of their work. Live in peace with one another." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)*

*"Let the elders that rule well be **counted worthy of double honour**, especially they who **labour in the word and doctrine**." (1 Timothy 5:17)*

Observations:

* God holds those He has ordained to spiritual leadership accountable for watching over our souls.

* Spiritual leadership should be held in high esteem and love, because of their work.

* Double honor should be given to spiritual leaders who labor in God's Word and sound doctrine.

FAMILIAL AUTHORITIES...

*"But I would have you know, that the **head of every man is Christ**; and the **head of the woman is the man**; and the **head of Christ is God**." (1 Corinthians 11:3)*

*"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the **behavior of their wives**," (1 Peter 3:1)*

*"Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to **love his own wife** even as himself, and the wife must see to it that **she respects her husband**." (Ephesians 5:33)*

*"Children, **obey your parents in all things**: for this is **well pleasing unto the Lord**." (Colossians 3:20)*

Observations:

* God the Father is the **head** of Christ Jesus (God the Son). The man (husband) is the **head** of the woman. What is the problem?

Is Jesus a **lesser God** because He voluntarily submits to His Father? Is the wife a **lesser human** because she voluntarily submits to her husband?

This is **total equality** but different responsibilities and different accountabilities before God.

* Submitting to God and then resisting the devil... makes him RUN AWAY from you!

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES...

*"Every person is to be in subjection to the **governing authorities**. For there is **no authority except from God**, and those which exist are established by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists authority has **opposed the ordinance of God**; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. (3) For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; (Romans 13:1-3)*

Observations:

* Everyone should submit to governmental authorities.

* All authorities are established by God. He sets them up, and He takes them down.

* Those who rebel against authority have opposed God's ordinance.

* Those who rebel will receive judgment upon themselves.

* Good behavior should not lead to fear of the government.

* Bad behavior should lead to fear of the government.

These comments are generally true, but as seen in the Bible, God can use anything for His purposes. At times in Scripture, we see governing authorities being used by God to purge and purify His people.

The truth is, in so much as is righteously possible, believers in Jesus should be the most obedient and respectful of all people.

WHEN SHOULD WE REBEL AGAINST AUTHORITY?

You may be thinking, "What? Are we just supposed