

YOUR VIEW OF AUTHORITY MATTERS TO GOD

Note to the speaker:

Help the audience to appreciate that the Supreme Authority, Jehovah God, wants us to respect authority that he permits to exist. We must demonstrate respect in our attitude and actions

WHY RESPECT AUTHORITY? (5 min.)

Disrespect for authority continues to increase during these “last days” (2Ti 3:1-3)

People often show little respect for any type of authority

At times, such disrespect is a reaction to the abuse of authority (Pr 28:15; 29:2; Ec 8:9)

God’s Word teaches us to show respect for those who have authority over us **[Read Proverbs 24:21]**

Laws and authority contribute to peace and order (1Co 14:33, 40; *lv* 39-40 ¶9-10)

SHOW RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY IN THE FAMILY (6 min.)

Jehovah organized the family arrangement so that all members would benefit (Eph 3:14, 15)

Jesus set a perfect example for husbands, wives, and children

A Christian husband must honor and love his wife (Eph 5:25-29; 1Pe 3:7; *w09* 7/15 8 ¶4-7)

He makes sacrifices for the family and provides spiritual instruction

A Christian wife must show deep respect for her husband (Eph 5:24, 33; *w09* 7/15 9 ¶8-10)

She too has authority, but she is cooperative and supportive (Pr 1:8)

Obedient children please Jehovah and their parents (Pr 23:15, 24, 25; Lu 2:51; *w09* 7/15 11 ¶16-18)

SHOW RESPECT FOR “THE SUPERIOR AUTHORITIES” (6 min.)

Jehovah requires us to show respect for governmental authorities **[Read Romans 13:1, 2]** (*w10* 1/15 24 ¶3; *lv* 44 ¶18)

These authorities serve as deterrents to disorder and crime (Ro 13:3, 4)

We should obey the laws of “the superior authorities” on account of our conscience (Ro 13:5)

We receive other benefits from these public servants (Ro 13:6, 7; *w11* 9/1 22 ¶2-3)

Showing due respect for government officials brings glory to God (Mt 5:16; *lv* 45 ¶19-20)

SHOW RESPECT FOR THE SUPREME AUTHORITY (8 min.)

Jehovah God is the Supreme Authority (Ps 83:18)

He always exercises his authority in the best way for all his subjects (De 10:17, 18)

Obedience to Jehovah must come before obedience to any other authority (Mt 22:21)

When commanded to do what God forbids or when commanded to stop doing what God requires, servants of Jehovah do not obey (Ex 20:4, 5; Da 3:16-18; Mt 28:19, 20; Ac 5:28, 29)

Even in such circumstances, we show respect for secular authorities (1Pe 3:15; *ed* 20, box)

We show respect for Jehovah by submitting to those who take the lead in the congregation **[Read Hebrews 13:17]**

Even though elders are imperfect, rebelling against them would show disrespect for Jehovah’s authority (Nu 16:1-3, 28-35; 26:9; *w12* 10/15 13-14 ¶4-8)

JEHOVAH’S AUTHORITY WILL LAST FOREVER (5 min.)

Jehovah has established the Messianic Kingdom with his Son ruling as King (Re 11:15)

Human rulership will soon be eliminated (Da 2:44; Mt 6:9, 10; *kr* 8-9 ¶8-9)

The Kingdom will bring peace and justice to the earth (Ps 72:7, 8, 12-14, 16; *kr* 26-27)

Subjects of the Kingdom will have such great respect for Jehovah’s authority that police will not be necessary in the new world (*g02* 7/8 12)

At the end of the Thousand Year Reign, Christ will hand the Kingdom over to Jehovah (1Co 15:28)

If we learn now to subject ourselves to Jehovah’s authority, we can enjoy living under God’s refreshing rule forever (Ps 37:27-29)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]