

## Lies & Self-Defense

A needed message for our day!

Proper authority must be learned in the home, or we will have what we have today; that is, every man doing what is right in his own eyes. The principle of authority starts in the home:

**Colossians 3:20** *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.* **Ephesians 6:1** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.* Both Colossians and Ephesians is given in the same passage as is the instruction to the wife, **Ephesians 5:22** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.* **Colossians 3:18** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.*

The passages above can not be understood apart from *ALL Scripture*, for every verse of the Bible has to be interpreted in the context of *ALL Scripture that is given by God*, Genesis through Revelation.

**2 Timothy 3:16** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* **2 Peter 1:20** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

Thus, the Christian doctrine of authority must be established from *all Scripture*; that is, authority must be understood in the light of the overall teaching of God on authority. The use of or obedience to authority cannot go against the law-word of God. All obedience must be in terms of God's word, and not in terms of man's ideas and understanding. It is the purpose of *the law of the Lord* to convert the soul, instructing in righteousness and make a new man in Christ Jesus. (Psalms 19)

**All authority belongs to God** (Christ, Mat 28:18). Every person (whether in authority or under authority) will answer to God as to how well he or she obeyed *the law of the Lord*. (**2 Cor 5:10**) This means that all obedience to any authority must be within the confines of or in relationship to His law. God has given the principles of life. All obedience must be within those principles, as His law-word alone defines righteous activity (2 Tim 3:16). Man's imagination or word can never be allowed to define proper law.

Thus, if anyone requires us to do anything contrary to God's law, we have a higher law to obey; that is, *the law of the Lord*. God gives no person nor group of persons the right to tell others to disobey the law of God; however, He may see fit to give the wicked the power to enforce ungodly laws, e.g., **in John 19:11**, Christ told Pilate, *Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:* Those in authority may have the POWER to demand others to violate Scripture, but that is different from having the Biblical

right to command any violation. When authority departs from God's law, it has forfeited all claim for obedience from those under "authority."

Godly submission is always to God, never to man, for our bodies belong to God. "(Rom 12) Authorities' proper, or lawful demands are based in their obedience to God's law. Our obedience is based in submission to *the law of the Lord*.

God has given no husband the right to forbid his wife to obey God nor to demand that she sin. God has given no parent the right to forbid a child to obey God nor to demand a child to commit sin (such as to steal, murder, fornicate). Obedience or disobedience is always in relationship to the law of God. Obedience or disobedience is never in terms of man-made laws. The one in authority may have the temporal power to make such a demand, but God's word instructs those under that authority how to respond. How much blood of the martyrs has been shed over this very issue of antichrist requirements? (See 1 Peter particularly chapter 3.)

### **Abraham lies to Abimelech**

"There is no condemnation of Abraham for trying to stay alive: rather, God judged Abimelech strongly (Gen. 12:17) and brought Abraham out greatly enriched by way of restitution (Gen. 12:16; 13:2). God similarly intervened to judge Abimelech (Gen. 20:3-6), even though Abimelech could plead his own integrity; nonetheless, because he headed a lawless order, God held Abimelech responsible, and restitution ensued (Gen. 20:14-18). In both instances, there is not the slightest hint of any condemnation of Abraham, every indication of God's judgment on monarchs for maintaining lawless orders in which Abraham dared not move honestly and openly.

In all these cases, there is not only judgment by God against the offender but restitution to the offended." (*The Institutes of Biblical Law*, v. 1, p. 462.)

### **Lies in self-defense, killing in self-defense, neither are chargeable as sin.**

In other words, lawless authority may require action that is clearly contrary to God's law concerning things like protecting life, liberty and private property.

Thus, Abraham's action (and Sarah's) **was an action of self-defense**. A person can kill in self-defense and it not be murder. Not knowing the character of Abimelech, Abraham lied in self-defense, and it was not considered by God as a lie. Again, we see that all action is in relation to God's law. We see this biblical principle, **lies told in self-defense**, in action throughout the Scripture, the midwives, Rahab, and particularly with David as he fled from Saul. These "lies" never brought about any condemnation from God.

### **The general principle of authority is this:**

1. All authority and power belong to God. He alone has the right to make laws and place requirements on people.
2. He raises up, gives authority to whomever He desires to have that authority, **Daniel 4:17**, and His decisions are above question.
3. All rebellion is in relationship to God's law. Rebellion can never be in terms of what man considers right or wrong, **1 Sam.15:22**. It does not matter if the man is a parent, a pastor, an employer or the civil government, for God never gives any man the right to determine what is right or wrong, although He may see fit to give the temporal power to enforce wrong over right. Nor does He give any person, child or parent, the option of what **laws of His** to follow and what ones to disregard.

**Authority, no matter how great**, does not permit one to depart *from the law of the Lord* and require others to depart from His *law*. Never does Scripture teach the divine right of kings (the king can do no wrong). Even the king must rule in terms of *the law of the Lord*, or he loses his mandate from God for the people to obey him. Never does God require any person to submit to ungodly rules. (See LEX REX or THE LAW AND THE PRINCE; by Samuel Rutherford [1644], Sprinkle Publications, 1982.)

ANYTIME the requirements of any person in authority departs from the requirements of the Lord God as revealed in His law, the choice is made for us, **WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN**, Acts 5:29. *At all times, we are to fear God rather than man.* (Mat. 10:25-28) Godly fear will obey God over man when the two conflict. Moreover, there is no statute of limitations on God's requirements. The *Word of the Lord* militates against the idea that civil, religious or even family authority has the final authority over one's life and actions.

**How about when the authority over us requires us to disobey God?** The godly appeal fits in here. Any resistance to authority over us must be grounded in submission to God or it is rebellion, Romans:12:1, 2, for rebellion is always in relationship to *the law of the Lord*. Thus, the resistance must be with a meek and quiet spirit as was displayed by the three Hebrew children. But in one's appeal, we cannot consider that Daniel would have eaten the meat if his appeal had been rejected.

When the laws and requirements of men (or any individual who has authority over us) hinder the Christian's obedience to their King, appeal them; if appeal fails, amend them; if amending fails, treat them as the three Hebrew children and Daniel did, ignore them and proceed on with our obedience to God. It is a higher, holier allegiance which must draw our obedience.

The time is upon us when some serious decisions must be made:

**Lies in self-defense and or killing in self-defense are condoned by the law-word of God.**

(For a complete treatment of the general principle of proper submission to authority, see our little booklet on Romans 13:1-5.)