

The resentment of authority seems to be part of the inheritance from Adam and it shows itself throughout the history of Israel and into the life of the church. Samuel told Saul years ago that rebellion was like the sin of witchcraft and it is difficult to have a godly spiritual walk if one is living in a state of revolt. I do not mean that we have to tolerate everything that comes along, I do mean that we have to be prepared to honor authority as God gives it and we will discover it aids our practical service in life and enriches our worship as well. There are many avenues for amelioration or change in authority structures that are open but they are open to respectful people and that is one of the clues to a life of spiritual vitality.

II. Discussion

A. Have respect for Divine Authority.

1. The rule of the Lord 1 Tim. 1:17 etc.
2. The use of life--because we truth... 1 Tim 4:10
3. Order among ourselves 1 Tim 5:21
4. The end of our testimony 1 Tim 6:15
5. Have a prayerful interest 1 Timothy 2:1-2 for testimony

B. Have respect for Human Authority

1. 1 Tim. 2:1, prayer for the leaders (cf.2:8)
2. 1 Tim 3:1, the "church" authorities, (cf 5:1)
3. 1 Tim 6:13, a good testimony before the world.
On the governmental side one might consider Romans 13, 1 Peter 2) On the ecclesiastical side one might see 1 Peter 5 as well as Titus 1 and 2.

C. Have respect for individual authority

1. The exercise of gift (1 Cor 12, Rom 12)
2. Service in the assembly (1 Tim 3:1)
3. Maintaining one's own responsibilities (1 Tim 5:8, 14)
4. And keeping a commitment to God with integrity
(1 Tim 6:20)

III, Conclusion: the recognition of authority is one of the necessary things for peace in, among, and around the people of God. In the period of the Judges the lack of authority led to ruin time and again and we