

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 9 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS? - PART 2

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1. Do the scriptures support the viewpoint that submission to authority is a vital and important characteristic of a true disciple?

Most definitely! The Bible strongly emphasizes the importance of submission to authority. **To oppose authority is the spirit of rebellion and lawlessness**, which the scriptures strongly speak against.

Rom 13:1-5 (NASB) *"Let every person 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 he who **resists authority has opposed the ordinance (law) 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;

4 for it (authority) is a **minister of God to you for good**. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a **minister of God, an avenger** who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for **conscience' sake**."

The governing authorities refer to those in **spiritual** as well as secular authority. **To resist authority is to oppose God** which is futile and foolish.

Heb 13:17a (NASB) *"Obey your leaders and **submit** to them, for they keep watch over your souls (spiritual life), as those who will give an account..."*

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

To submit to God is to submit to His anointed and appointed authorities.

1 Pet 2:13-16 (NASB) *"Submit yourselves for the **Lord's sake** to **every human institution**, whether to a king as the one in authority,*

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 for **such is the will of God** that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God."

The Bible asks us to submit to authority for the LORD'S SAKE. This is the will of God.

2. Could there ever be extenuating circumstances that would make it permissible to disobey a particular authority?

Yes, there are. Lets look at some examples.

There was a time in communist Russia that it was illegal to bring in Bibles. That law was in contradiction to God's higher law which states that we are to *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*
Mark 16:15 (NASB)

Whom must you obey?

Acts 5:29 (NASB) *"But Peter and the apostles answered and said, 'We must obey God rather than men.'"*

Acts 4:18-20 (NIV) *Then they (the religious leaders) called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*

19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

When man's laws contradict the Word of God, we must obey the higher laws of the Bible. God will protect us for honoring Him, by exalting His Word above the laws of man. (E.g. God blinded the eyes of the KGB as Brother Andrew regularly transported jam packed car loads of Bibles into communist Russia).

One unsaved husband said to his wife, "I also know the Bible. The husband is the head of the wife, and you must submit and obey. Now I'm telling you as head of this home - I forbid you to go to church on Sundays."

What is God's instruction on this issue?

Heb 10:25 (NASB) "...**not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another}; and all the more, as you see the day** (of Christ's return) **drawing near.**"

Whom must the wife obey - God or her husband?

Well her reply to her husband was, "I love you honey and I'll always be there for you and the children, I'll meet your needs, I'll cook for you, I'll keep the home clean, but I won't go to hell for you. I fear God more than man." She kept going to church.

The end result of this true story is that he finally gave into his stubbornness and committed his life to Christ. God honored her for exulting His Law above the word of man.

3. To oppose authority is rebellion and lawlessness. What is lawlessness?

To be lawless means to operate outside of the law.

Lawless - Strong's Greek: Illegality, i.e. violation of the law, wickedness, not subject to the law, transgressor, to be without law.

Matt 24:10-13 (NASB) "And at that time (in the last days) **many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.**

11 And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.

12 And because **lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.**

13 But the one who **endures to the end, he shall be saved.**"

The Bible says that in the last days **lawlessness will increase** and most people's love will grow cold, but it is only the one who endures to the end who shall be saved.

1 John 3:4-9 (NASB) "Everyone who **practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.**

5 And you know that **He** (Jesus) **appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.**

6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

8 the one who **practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God** (Jesus) **appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy** (to release us from) **the works of the devil.**

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

To practice sin is to practice lawlessness. Jesus came to set us free from the **spirit of lawlessness**. A true Born Again Christian does not practice lawlessness.

4. Who is behind the "spirit of lawlessness?"

None other than satan and his demon hosts. He could not submit to God. He rebelled against God's authority which is lawlessness and had a sinful heart which was lifted up in pride.

2 Thess 2:1,3-8 (NASB) "Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the **(i)** coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (i.e. the second coming), **AND** our **(ii)** gathering together to Him (i.e. the rapture).

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the second coming) will not come unless the **APOSTASY** (falling away) **comes first**, and the **man of lawlessness is REVEALED**, the son of destruction,

4 who **OPPOSES** and **exalts himself** above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

6 And you know what **RESTRAINS** (the church on its knees in fervent intercession) him now, so that in his time he may be revealed.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he (the Church) who now **RESTRAINS** will do so until he is taken out of the way (i.e. raptured).

7 (Amplified) "for the mystery of lawlessness - that **hidden principle of rebellion** against constituted authority is already at work in the world."

7 (Knox) "...meanwhile, the conspiracy of revolt is already at work..."

8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming."

The man of lawlessness is satan and he will cause the apostasy.

APOSTASY - Webster's: Renunciation or abandonment of one's religious faith.

He **OPPOSES** all authority established by God. He wants the place of prominence, to be worshipped, that belongs to God.

This spirit of rebellion is also evident in the church today.

Only those in submission to God's authority have the power to **restrain** him now.

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE RESTRAINING THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS - NOT PROMOTING IT OR BEING A PART OF IT.

Those who allow themselves to be influenced by the spirit of lawlessness are yielding themselves to satan.

5. What is one serious implication if a person will not repent from lawlessness and submit to authority?

Such a person is walking on dangerous ground of removing himself from GRACE and putting himself back under LAW.

1 Tim 1:9-10 (NASB) "Realizing that the **fact that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious**, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane (irreverent), for those who kill their fathers and mothers for murderers

10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers (willfully lying under oath), and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching."

6. What is God's answer to lawlessness?

i) To **come out** from those living in lawlessness and be separate unto the Lord.

2 Cor 6:14 - 2 Cor 7:1 (NASB) "**Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?**

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial (a name of satan meaning worthlessness, hopeless ruin, extreme wickedness, and destruction), or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

17 Therefore, **COME OUT from their midst and BE SEPARATE'** says the lord. '**And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you.**

18 *And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' says the Lord Almighty.
1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let US cleanse OURSELVES from all defilement of flesh and SPIRIT, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

As Christians we need to **cleanse ourselves** from all sin of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Are there sins of the spirit? Yes, because the Bible says so. Sins like hatred, bitterness, resentment, unbelief, etc., are all sins of the spirit.

ii) We need to **HATE lawlessness** to the point where we will have nothing to do with it.

NB. God anoints those who do this.

Heb 1:9 (NASB) *"Thou (Jesus) hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness (joy, exaltation) above Thy companions."*

iii) We need to **PRESENT our members** as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Rom 6:19 (NASB) *"I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification (holiness)."*

iv) We need to **apply the redemptive power of the finished work on the cross** to deliver us from the control of the spirit of lawlessness.

Titus 2:14 (NASB) *"(Jesus) Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem (to release by paying a ransom - Greek) us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."*

7. What authority does the church have to discipline the lawless?

i) Paul was appalled by the lawlessness in the church at Corinth and **exercised very HEAVY discipline.**

1 Cor 5:1-5, 9-13 (NASB) *"It is actually reported that there is (sexual) immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife (i.e. cohabited with his step mother).*

2 *And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be REMOVED from your midst.*

3 *For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.*

4 *In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,*

5 *I have decided to deliver such a one to satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

9 *I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;*

10 *I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world.*

11 *But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler not even to eat with such a one.*

12 *For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?*

13 *But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves."*

Those in spiritual authority are to judge those within the church.

ii) **Matt 18:15-17 (NASB)** *"And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in **private**; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*

16 *But if he does not listen to you, **take one or two more with you**, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.*

17 *And if he **refuses to listen** to them, **tell it to the church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer."*

The Bible pattern for church discipline is stated here. If a person refuses to repent when disciplined he is publicly excommunicated from the church.

iii) **Acts 5:1-11 (NASB)** *"But a certain man named **Ananias**, with his wife **Sapphira**, sold a piece of property,*

2 *and **kept back** some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.*

3 *But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?*

4 *While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God.'*

5 *And as he heard these words, **Ananias fell down and breathed his last**; and **great fear** come upon all who heard of it.*

6 *And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.*

7 *Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.*

8 *And Peter responded to her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?' And she said, 'Yes, that was the price.'*

9 *Then Peter said to her, 'Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well.'*

10 *And **she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last**; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.*

11 *And **great fear** came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things."*

Here we see God's judgment on lawlessness in the early church when **Ananias** and his wife **Sapphire** were judged by death before the whole assembly and a great fear (to sin) came upon the whole church.

iv) **Eph 6:4 (NASB)** *"And Fathers do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the **discipline** and instruction of the Lord."*

As in the natural so also in the spiritual (**1 Cor 15:46**). Spiritual fathers are to bring up spiritual children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

v) **1 Cor 11:32 (NASB)** *"But when we are **judged**, we are **disciplined by the Lord** in order that we may **not be condemned** along with the world."*

Because God does not want His children to suffer in eternity, they need to be judged and disciplined in this life, so as not to lose rewards in the next life.

From the above scriptures, we can clearly see that those whom God puts in authority have the spiritual responsibility to exercise discipline over the flock of God.

8. What should our attitude be to discipline?

Job 5:17 (NASB) "Behold, how **HAPPY** is the man whom God reproveth, so **do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.**"

Prov 12:1 (NASB) "Whoever **LOVES discipline** loves knowledge..."

Prov 6:23 (NASB) "For the commandment is as a lamp, and the teaching is light, and **reproofs for discipline are the way of life.**"

Prov 13:18 (NASB) "Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but **he who regards reproof will be honored.**"

Prov 15:32 (NASB) "**He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.**"

God deals with us as with sons, and what son is there whom his father does not discipline. Those without discipline are illegitimate children and not sons.

Heb 12:5-13 (NASB) "...and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as **sons 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproveth by Him;**

6 For those whom the **Lord loves he disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.**"

7 It is for **discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?**

8 But if you are **without discipline...then you are illegitimate children (bastards - KJV) and not sons.**

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them, shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.**

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been **TRAINED** by it, afterwards it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**

12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed."

God does not discipline us with sickness and calamity. God **disciplines** us with His **WORD**, by His **SPIRIT** and through **fellow mature believers in Christ.**

1 Cor 11:32 (NASB) "But when we are **judged**, we are **disciplined by the Lord** in order that we may **not be condemned along with the world.**"

9. What should our response be to discipline?

Be **thankful** God loves you enough to discipline you - so you don't slip deeper into the bondage of sin - and end up in hell.

Make the necessary **changes** and **repent.**

Rev 3:19 (NASB) "Those whom I **love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and REPENT.**"

King Saul would not repent and went on a steady downward road of destruction.

King David, whose sin was more grievous than Saul's, repented from his heart and prospered under God's continued blessing.

Prov 28:13 (NASB) "He who **conceals** (covers, hides) his **transgressions** (sins) **will not prosper, but he who**

confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 9

1. Memorize ***Hebrews 12:7*** as found in point 7 of this lecture.
2. In your S.T. examine your heart to see if there is an area in your life where you have been rebellious against authority or lawless (i.e. doing what you think is best instead of obeying the Word of God).
3. Write all these lawless deeds down on a piece of paper.
4. Repent of these deeds and then take authority over the spirit of lawlessness in the name of Jesus Christ, binding and casting the lawless one out in Jesus name. Destroy the piece of paper.
5. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.
6. Your memory verse counts for 10% towards your test results.
7. A pass mark of 80% is required.