

Obeying Authority

*Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. **Colossians 3: 20***

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. **Romans 13: 1 – 2**

One trait that is common among all is that we desire a certain level of independence; we want control over our lives. While God approves of each of us expressing our individuality and earning a level of freedom, He makes it clear in the Bible that we are all to obey the authorities in place over us.

† **This includes obeying the laws of the state and the police officers who enforce them, obeying our bosses at work or our administrators and teachers at school and, for children living at home, obeying your parents.**

We often try to convince ourselves that if we don't agree with authority or if we think they are being unfair, then it is okay to disobey them.

† **But we can only disobey authority if they are asking us to directly go against God (for example by asking us to steal, kill or lie). As the Bible says...**

○ **We must obey God rather than men. *Acts 5: 29b***

† **Otherwise, God clearly commands that we obey authority even if we don't like or don't agree with their rules**

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