

## Authority #2

If you want the full benefits of living under the umbrella of God's blessing, power, guidance, provision and protection – then you need to remain under the umbrella of authority that God has set over you.

- When you remove yourself from authority God has placed over you also remove yourself from His umbrella of spiritual protection.
- It doesn't even matter whether the person in authority over you is a godly or ungodly person.
- Your submission to that authority keeps you under God's umbrella of protection – and your rejection or rebellion against that authority removes you from that umbrella of protection.
- Your spiritual protection is determined more by the way you honor those in authority over you than by the way they behave.
- A man who clearly understood this concept of authority and protection was David.

After Saul rebelled against the word of the Lord and became an ungodly king, and after David was anointed by Samuel to be Saul's successor, and after Saul noticed that the favor of both God and the people rested on David – Saul became jealous and attempted to hunt David down for the purpose of killing him – and David became a hunted man for a long time.

- On two separate occasions, David was able to sneak up on Saul at night in a cave or in their camp -- and Saul's life was in David's hands.
  - But even though Saul was an ungodly king who was trying to kill David – David refused to kill Saul when he had the opportunity. Why?
  - *"The LORD forbid that I should lift my hand against my master, for he is the anointed of the LORD"* (I Sam. 26:8).
  - Abishai said to David, *"Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice."* (9)
  - But David said to Abishai, *"Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless?"* (10)
  - *"As surely as the LORD lives, the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish."* (11)
- "But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD'S anointed."*
- David knew better than to take matters into his own hands.
  - Saul was the Lord's anointed – the Lord's chosen ruler – let God deal

with him.

- David trusted the Lord to protect him from Saul and to bring judgment upon Saul in the Lord's own way and in the Lord's own timing.
- It is not the right or responsibility of those under authority to execute judgment on those over them in authority.

And then do you remember when God did take care of Saul, and Saul was wounded in battle and then ended his own life – and a messenger ran to David telling him the news – claiming credit for killing Saul himself.

- Do you remember David's response? In II Samuel 1:14 David asked him, *"Why were you not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?"*
- Then David called one of his men and said, *"Go, strike him down!"* So he struck him down, and he died.
- For David had said to him, *"Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, 'I killed the LORD'S anointed.'"*

*"Why were you not afraid to lift your hand against the Lord's anointed?"*

- Have I ever done that?
  - Have I ever attacked – either physically or verbally – someone chosen by God to exercise authority over me? Someone chosen by God to be my spiritual leader?
  - Why was I not afraid to lift my hand – or curse or speak evil – against the Lord's anointed?
  - Do I not fear the Lord as David did?  
God used Saul's persecution of David to achieve His character purposes in David.
  - Because David trusted God – and did not rebel against the Lord's anointed – God's power and authority and blessing and protection flowed freely into David's life.
  - God's purposes are not restricted to working only through godly authorities.
  - As long as we are submissive to God's authority – God can accomplish His purposes in our lives even through ungodly people in authority over us.
- We demonstrate that we believe in and accept the sovereignty of God when we accept whatever authority He has set over us.

-- I believe that one of the reasons God entrusted such great power and authority to David as King was because he had earlier demonstrated a submissive spirit when he was under Saul's authority.

-- We can never be over those things God has put under us until we are under those things God has put over us.

-- God gives His Kingdom authority to His children who have a spirit of submission to God and to the authorities He has placed over us.

## **II. HONORING FATHER AND MOTHER.**

- Though there are other exhortations to parents as to their responsibilities in carrying out their authority as parents in a godly way -- that is not the thrust of the 5th commandment.

-- This commandment has nothing to do with parenting skills.

-- This commandment has everything to do with our responsibility before God to honor the parents He has placed in authority over us.

- And there are no conditions, loopholes or exceptions.

- The 5th commandment does NOT say:

-- Honor your father and mother if you think they are deserving of honor.

-- Honor your father and mother if they reciprocate by meeting your needs in accordance with your expectations.

-- Honor your father and mother when it is pleasing to you to do so.

-- Honor your father and mother when they express appreciation to you for doing so.

-- Honor your father and mother if they are godly parents who set a godly example.

-- Honor your father and mother when it "feels right."

-- Honor your father and mother if they let you have your own way and do whatever your friends are allowed to do.

-- Honor your father and mother if their demands and expectations of you are reasonable in your estimation.

-- Honor your father and mother if you agree with their rules.

-- Honor your father and mother if they get a passing grade of being good parents in your judgment.

-- Honor your father and mother if others in your family also do so.

- The commandment simply says: Honor your father and your mother. Period. Just do it.
- Yet notice also that the operative word is honor – it is not love or hold in high regard or even respect.
  - The word chosen is honor.
  - Honor is not an emotion or feeling – honor is a behavioral word.
  - We are commanded to behave in a certain way toward them that reflects their status and God-given authority as parents – whatever their personal character traits or parenting skills – and whatever our opinions and emotions about them.
  - The fact is, not all parents are worthy of being held in high regard as to their character or godliness or faith or morality or parenting skills.
  - But all parents are to be honored by those under their God-given authority.
- Does God hold accountable those in authority for the way they exercise their authority? Of course! But that's not the point here.
- In the third article we'll talk about what the point is.