

Guiding Principles for Resisting an Erring Authority

1. Authority can and should be respected while it is being obeyed or disobeyed. Disobedience with an attitude of humility or arrogance makes the difference and communicates the appropriate message. Acts 23:5 Arrogance says I refuse to submit to you. Is. 14:12-15 Humility says I must submit to the higher authority. Acts 4:19
2. Authority, of the position, is always to be respected (not necessarily obeyed) even when the person in the position, or the decision made by that person cannot be obeyed. Matt. 26:62; Acts 23:5
3. Disobedience (and obedience) should always point people to life's ultimate authority – God and His word. Matt. 26:62-64; Acts 4:19; 5:29;
4. The message most clearly communicated by disobedience is heard best when one would rather suffer consequences than disobey God or defile their conscience. Dan. 3:16,17; 6:13-24; Rev. 2:10-11; 12:11
5. Matt 10:28 *“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*