

IDENTIFYING & DEALING WITH A PERSON WITH AUTHORITY ISSUES

THE CONCEPT OF AUTHORITY IN THE BIBLE

1. God alone is the ultimate authority. Matt. 6:13; Rom. 13:1; Dan. 2:20-21
2. Rebellion against God is a serious sin. Num. 15:30; 1 Sam. 15:22,23; 27:8; 30:1,18; Rom. 1:28-29; Jude 8-9
3. Delegated authority is biblical and important. Dan. 2:37-38; Jer 27:6; Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:7; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17 Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:22-25; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 2:18; Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:1-6
4. Unjustified disobedience to delegated authorities is disobedience to God. Numbers 12,16; Rom. 13:2;
5. Attitudes and actions for those under authority:
Titus 3:1-6 Consider the following principles:
 - a. An attitude of submission is commanded regardless of the character of the delegated authority (1 Pet. 2:18).
 - b. Submission should be active--not passive.
 - c. Whenever possible, we should be sure that we understand why we are being asked to do something by the delegated authority. Eph. 6:5,7; Col. 3:22,23
 - d. The burden of proof is on the one under authority to justify why he should not obey, not vice-versa.
 - e. When we cannot obey the command of a delegated authority because we believe this would constitute disobedience to God, we should seek for a constructive alternative which will fulfill the righteous desires of the delegated authority and also enable us to obey God (Dan. 1:8-16).
 - f. When disobedience to a delegated authority is necessary, we should do so respectfully, not rebelliously or maliciously. Acts 4:19,20; 5:29
 - g. Within the church, dissent is different than rebellion or disobedience. Some issues are important enough that our conscience tells us that we need to take further measures.
6. Five Principles of Godly Leadership 1 Tim. 3:1 Consider the following biblical principles for godly and authoritative church leadership:
 - a. Model godly behavior, values, and attitudes. See 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:20,21.
 - b. Serve others within the group. Willingly follow the authorities above you.
 - c. Exemplify humility about our own opinions and recognize, address, and execute a plan for personal growth.
 - d. Teach scripture and persuade through biblical principles, priorities, and example. See 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - e. Provide direction and vision for the people under your leadership. Jn. 10 Work toward consensus on extra-biblical issues within your sphere of authority when possible. See 2 Cor. 2:6; Acts 15:4-29 Exercise command authority on extra-biblical issues within your sphere of authority only when necessary. See 1 Cor. 5:3-5 and 1 Tim. 1:20 for examples of this in church discipline.
7. Three passages illustrating what to do when the authority over you does not agree with God.
 - a. Joseph and his brothers, Potiphar, Pharaoh: Gen. 37-41

- b. Shadrach, Meshach, Abenego and Daniel: Dan. 3 & 6
- c. Sarah & Hagar: Gen. 16; 1 Pet. 3:1-6

8. Dealing with Difficult People: <http://dougdelp.wordpress.com/dealing-with-difficult-people/>

- a. "A Test of Love"
- b. Non-Christian Parents (<http://fervr.net/teen-life/honouring-your-non-christian-parents>)
Eph. 6:1-3 - Obedience to God always brings him glory. However, this doesn't necessarily apply if your parents are trying to stop you following Jesus. Jesus comes first, but there are still ways to obey your parents, and show them that you love them:
 - Try and be the best child you can be for the Lord and for your parents.
 - If you have chores to do at home, do them without complaining.
 - Obey your parent's curfews and tidy up your room.
 - Wash up, even if you haven't been asked.
 - Don't speak back rudely to them but respect them.

RED FLAGS INDICATING A PERSON HAS AN "ISSUE" WITH AUTHORITY:

- No = 1 - this does not describe this person
 2 - the individual may show some signs of this but not much.
 3 - the individual definitely shows some of these signs but not all the time.
 Yes = 4 - this characteristic is usually seen in this person's lifestyle.

SELF-IMAGE

No --- Yes

1. 1-2-3-4 Most decisions, actions, or discussion tend to promote his or her own self-image and empower themselves as the best authority on a topic.
2. 1-2-3-4 This person promotes individuals that make them look good, and tend to ignore or belittle people that don't make them look good.
3. 1-2-3-4 They don't seem to sense that they should be more tactful in presenting their perspective.
4. 1-2-3-4 They are willing to distort reality to maintain his or her own perspective about who he or she is.
5. 1-2-3-4 They treat disagreement or disobedience as disloyalty.
6. 1-2-3-4 They tend to respond with vengefulness or vindictiveness when he or she thinks someone is being disloyal.
7. 1-2-3-4 They see themselves as special or unique.
8. 1-2-3-4 They seem unusually willing to destroy the reputation or work of someone that doesn't make him or her look good.
9. 1-2-3-4 They are deeply bothered if his or her image is diminished by other people.

ENTITLEMENT

10. 1-2-3-4 They expect special treatment.
11. 1-2-3-4 They thrive on the adoration and admiration of others and will seek it out regardless of the cost.
12. 1-2-3-4 They tend to hurt people without noticing that he or she may be "stepping on another person's toes."
13. 1-2-3-4 They often feel that the world (the church, an institution) owes him or her glory or respect.

14. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They seek out people who don't know him or her personally to maintain this adoration and feeling of self-importance.
15. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They seem to be insensitive to how he or she affects others.
16. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They do not appear to care about others unless it ultimately serves their reputation or need for control.

EXPLOITATION

17. 1 -2 - 3- 4 This person is perceived by many to be manipulative and controlling
18. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They often abuse his or her position of influence and power while maintaining that this is for the other person's good.
19. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They alternate between the extremes of promoting himself or herself and devaluing himself or herself.
20. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They often exaggerate your positive characteristics or ideals especially when they want you to do something for them.
21. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They can make radical changes in a short amount of time from caring about a person to being completely indifferent to this person.
22. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They will often resort to put-downs or highly critical judgments.
23. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They become somewhat paranoid or may see opposition to them, their work, or their opinion as part of a conspiracy.
24. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They seem to think he or she has a right to ignore others.
25. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They rarely admit personal failure and is adept to blame shifting.
26. 1 -2 - 3- 4 When in a bind they do not care how his or her behavior affects others.
27. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They use other people's weaknesses to maintain a power position.
28. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They tend to excuse conning others when it will further what they believe in.
29. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They aren't bothered when he or she makes people uncomfortable.
30. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They develop relationships that tend to be superficial and shallow.
31. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They make you feel off-balance or "crazy" at times.

DEPERSONALIZATION

32. 1 -2 - 3- 4 This person lacks genuine empathy, though they often are perceived as being caring.
33. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They do not seem to have significant feelings for others.
34. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They will not compromise nor negotiate fairly
35. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They sometimes treat other people like things or objects.
36. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They use denial, arrogance, haughtiness, charm, and exaggeration or persuasion to maintain a "superior" position.
37. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They are good at convincing you of his or her goodness (superiority)- and of your badness (inferiority).
38. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They expect automatic compliance with his or her expectations.
39. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They seem to retreat from genuine human need and ignores the pain of others.
40. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They see solutions and success as more important than personal relationships.
41. 1 -2 - 3- 4 They don't seem to feel the struggle when others are involved in personal pain.

____ Total Score

104 to 123 = a person with some authority issues.

124-164 = a person that respects no authority but themselves.