

Authority

Part 1

Prayer

Dear Father God, thank you for putting people of authority in our lives. Thank you for loving us so much that you put people in place to help us along this journey we call life. We ask that you give us the wisdom, understanding and knowledge to be obedient to authority and to always give respect to those in charge over us. We want to be an example to the world so those who don't know you will come to know you, because they see you in us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Real Life App

Who likes people telling them what to do? None of us. That's because we want to do what *we* want to do. But I think God had that all figured out after Adam and Eve disobeyed God by going where they weren't suppose to go, listening to who they weren't suppose to be listening to and eating what they weren't suppose to eat. They messed up and they messed bad. In the garden the only authority Adam and Eve had was who? That's right God. There were no police officers, no teachers, and no one who would tell them what to do. But they didn't listen. They didn't listen to their authority.

If you read the Old Testament, you will see that because of the actions of the people throughout history, different levels of authority was established to help govern them. Obviously the first authority in your life is who? Right. After God, your mom and dad. And then as you go into the different areas of your life, there are different people who have been put in authority over that area of your life. School, teachers. Sports, coach. Home, parents. Church, pastors. Citizen, judges and policemen and the list goes on.

So why all the people who tell us what we can and can't do? Because that's how God is. God is very authoritative. He is the authority. Every person in charge of someone will have to answer to God when they die. Your parents will, the policemen will, the judges, the teachers, the coaches, everyone. These people have not been put in your life to keep you from having fun, although it may seem that way. They are put in your life to guide you and direct you. Can you imagine a world where there were no rules? Where there is no one in charge? Let's take a very small, real life example. I am sure there has been a time in class when the teacher stepped out of the room and there was no one in charge. All of a sudden everyone started doing their own thing and it was crazy, wasn't it? There was no one *in charge* to bring things to order.

That's how your life would be if there were no authorities to help keep things in order. Let's do a little mental flowchart. (*If you can have a white board that would be great for a visual*) Let's begin with your parents. They are in charge of your life until you are 18. They tell you where you are going to live, where

you are going to school, when you are going to school, when you are getting up, when you are going to bed, when to shower and the list goes on and on. But what if they weren't there? You wouldn't have any food, because you are too young to work. You wouldn't have anywhere to live because you are too young to get a loan. You *definitely* wouldn't get up to go to school thus is why you wouldn't have a job. Do you see why you have parents?

We have to be obedient to all authority. There is not one person in authority over your life that isn't there to do you good. That's why it is so important to be obedient to authority. Just like in that script when the girl said if you won't be obedient to someone you *can see*, who is *in your face*, no way are you going to listen to God who you can't see, who is far, far off and who you can tune out by simply putting in your earphones.

God put authority into place. We have to be obedient. We have to listen to those put in authority over us. God told us to listen to them. God told us to listen to Him.

Lifeline

KEY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:10 (NLT) – Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:1 (NLT) - Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Motivational

Ask the girls to give a testimony about an authority figure in their lives who helped them, saved them from danger or who guided them in the right direction of life and how it changed them. *NOTE: Do not allow the girls to go off into a negative testimony about authority, unless it comes back around to a positive.*