Chapter One

THE LAW OF SUBJECTION

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honor.

Romans 13:1-7

"Let every soul be subject unto higher powers." Everyone is subject to someone. Spiritual Protocol involves the establishment of order; and in this hour the Lord is doing a new work of establishing order in His house.

What is protocol? Webster’s dictionary defines it in part as “a code of ceremonial forms and courtesies of precedence accepted as proper and correct in official dealings, as between heads of state and diplomatic officials.” This is the definition upon which we will concentrate.

God is moving in the area of spiritual protocol. Why is this area important? We need to know the limits God has set. Those who do not learn the protocol concerning spiritual matters will always be moving beyond their measure, stepping beyond the boundaries that God has ordained and moving beyond the areas that the Holy Spirit has given them to move.

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in. As we learn the protocol of the spiritual realm, we will begin to know how to operate without transgressing or moving beyond the area or the measure of rule that God has given us. If we are to function properly in the Spirit, we must be aware of the ways in which God desires that we move. Just as in a game in the natural, rules have been set; we dare not break those rules lest our ministry be disqualified.

It is interesting to note that if an individual has bad manners in the natural, he will also have bad manners in the spiritual. We need to develop a spiritual code of ethics. If someone is prophesying, should I prophesy at the same time? Do I have the right to interrupt a speaker to bring forth an utterance in tongues? Of course not. We need to understand the measure of our rule.

One of the primary rules of spiritual protocol is the law of subjection. To be under subjection is to owe allegiance under external governmental rule; to fall under the control or authority of another. As we look at subjection, we learn that we are under external governments. We must begin to acknowledge the governments that God has set on the earth. The three fundamental areas of government include the Church government, the political government and the family government. Everyone must be submitted, or subjected, to others in each of these areas. If an individual is out of order, he is unbalanced or unsubmitted in at least one of these governmental areas.

God has called us to be subject to one another in love (I Pet. 5:5). This is an attitude of the heart; actions alone do not constitute submission. We may be performing all the right deeds; but if our heart is rebellious or if we think bitter thoughts toward one whom we are serving, how can we say we are truly submitted? God looks at our hearts, not merely our deeds. While pure deeds flow from a pure heart, they alone do not constitute purity before God and man.

I have found that the measure of my submission will measure out the degree of my authority. If I am unwilling to obey God by being subject to those He has placed in authority over me, then the authority that is to be present in my life is not there; I cannot exercise authority over others.

Again, Romans 13:1 exhorts us, “Let every soul be subject unto higher powers…” How many souls? All of them. We are all to be subject to the higher powers or authorities. The Bible says that there is no power but of God (Rom. 13:1). In other words, all authority that exists has been ordained by God. Therefore, when we resist authority we are in reality resisting God. (The one exception to this is when earthly powers are opposed to God - of course we are first to be submitted to Him.)

Without higher powers, or where authority is not in place, anarchy reigns. For instance, if a father does not exercise dominion in his home, the mother might step into place to rule, creating a matriarchy. Often there is a negative connotation to a matriarchy, as though the woman were to blame for grasping the power within the family. However, she has actually arisen to keep anarchy from coming into it. If the father does not rise to his place and the

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mother does not rise to hers, then the children will begin to rule and anarchy will be the end result.

Again, everyone must be subject to someone; we are all to be subject to those placed in authority over us. The Bible uses the term “higher powers.” Let’s look at some of the words translated as “power” in the Bible to see what these higher powers are.

There are several Greek words for power. The first of these is 

\[ \text{dunamis} \]. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...” This word “power” (dunamis) means miracle-working power. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation; it is the miracle-working power that will bring deliverance. When is this miraculous power of the Lord shown forth? Mark chapter sixteen describes the ascension of the Lord Jesus. At the end of the chapter we read, “And they [the disciples] went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following (v.20). When the Word is preached, the Lord confirms it with signs following. He does not confirm man’s ministry, man’s character, man’s lifestyle; He confirms His Word. This is dunamis power.

Again, the gospel of Christ is the power God unto salvation for all who believe. Therefore whoever believes the gospel of Christ receives salvation; all that is necessary is belief. Through that belief the power of God is unleashed to grant salvation, which is our full deliverance.

A second Greek word for power is 

\[ \text{ischus} \], which means “ability of force” or “strength”. Second Thessalonians 1:9, speaking of those who do not know and obey the Lord, says “...who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...” When the Lord comes to take vengeance, there will be ability, there will be force, there will be strength. God is not only coming with great authority; He is also coming with great force.

This ischus power shows us that our God is awesome. Sometimes we need to ask ourselves, “How big is my God?” As we look to our God, our perceptions of who He is will determine how we live. If we believe that our God is a big God, then we know that with Him we can do anything because He can do anything -- except fail.

\[ \text{kratos} \] is a third word we see translated as “power.” It also means force, strength and might. More specifically, “manifested power” is derived from the root kra, which means “to perfect or complete.” This term appears frequently in the doxologies (verses that give a blessing or praise). In these instances, kratos signifies “dominion”. See, for example, First Timothy 6:16 “...Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. “Power” here denotes the dominion of God.

Arche is also rendered “power” and carries the meaning of “the beginning rule.” We read in Luke 20:20, “And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just...
men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

Another example is found in Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places." There are varying ranks of principalities, and some rule over cities. The Bible says, "Know ye not that ye shall judge angels?" I asked the Lord about that -- "Which angels, Lord?" He answered, "The fallen angels, the ones that are ruling over your cities." God wants us to lift up our voices and judge those fallen angels. This is the type of "powers" against which we are to wrestle: the ruling spirits over different geographical areas. God has given us the authority to do so.

The word *exousia* denotes a freedom of action. It is translated "power" and "authority." Let's look at this word a little more deeply.

And the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject to us through thy name. And he said unto them, — I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.


First, we need to understand that Jesus is speaking to the seventy disciples. He had different ministries. There was the ministry to the multitudes -- a mixture of everyone. Then there was the ministry to the seventy, the ministry to the twelve and to the three. Each of these differed one from another.

Next, Jesus said, "I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven." I believe that Jesus wants us to view satan in this way; just as lightning doesn't have dominion over us, neither does satan. At another time Jesus said, "The prince of this world has nothing in me" (John 14:30). The Bible tells us to give no place to the devil. Therefore, if I give no place to the devil, he has no ground to stand on in my life. There is nothing that he can draw on in me, because all that is in me is light. That is why Paul could simply shake off the serpent that bit him (see Acts 28:1-6). The devil had nothing in Paul -- he had no authority in his life. Satan can be cast into the bottomless pit in our lives; there's nothing for him to stand on and so he goes into the pit. He has no support. He continues to fall, and as we behold that we can say, "I behold satan falling as lightning from heaven." But that can only come as we know the Lord Jesus.

"Behold, I give you power [or, authority] to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you." The Lord is giving us power over all the works of the enemy. Now, if a crossing guard or police officer stands in front of a bus and holds up his hand, the bus will stop, as big as it is. The driver has seen the uniform -- the symbol of authority. He might be bigger than the officer, he might be able to outrun the officer; but he respects the policeman's authority and stops.

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So it is in the Kingdom of God. When we have the authority of God in our lives, when we are submissive to authority, then we shall be people of authority when we stand in the presence of the enemy and say, "Halt!" But if we’re not under authority, satan won’t obey us. We must be under authority to have authority. Think about it. If an authority figure in your life stepped out of line or made some inappropriate remarks, would you still respond to that authority? Probably not. We need to stay within the limits set for us by God and not "step out of line." Jude nine tells us how the archangel Michael dealt with the devil. He did not bring forth any accusations or call him names. He didn’t even dispute with him. He simply said, "The Lord rebuke thee." This is our pattern. We have the authority; we simply need to exercise it within the boundaries set by the Lord.
CHAPTER ONE
Study Questions

Part 1. Please fill in the blanks with the appropriate answers.

1. According to Romans 13 everyone is subject to ____________________________

2. Protocol involves the establishment of ____________________________

3. One of the primary rules of spiritual protocol is the ____________________________

4. ________________, ________________, and ________________ are the three main areas of government.

5. The measure of my ____________________will measure out the degree of my ____________________

Part 2. Please put a T in the blank if the statement is True, F if the statement is False. If the statement is False, please indicate why.

1. ___________I can always exercise authority over the devil.

2. ___________Power follows when the Word is preached.

3. ___________All of the Greek words for “power” mean the same thing.

Part 3. Please define or give a brief example of each of the following:

1. Dunamis

2. Ischus

3. Kratos

4. Arche

5. exousia

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