



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.
Title: Handling Persecution,
Part 6
Lesson: 34

Text: Acts 4:19-20
Date: February 26, 2023

The Apostle's response

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them,
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you
rather than to God, you be the judge;

20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen
and heard.”

Is it ever right to disobey our civil authorizes?

_____, when their demands conflict with God's Word.

Definition of civil disobedience

Civil disobedience is a non-violent refusal to obey certain
laws or commands of a government when it demands
obedience to what God has forbidden or forbids what God
has commanded.

Romans 13:1–2 Every person is to be in **SUBJECTION** to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

“subjection” [hupotasso] - A military term meaning to arrange under. to line up under

The idea is having a demeanor of deference toward those in authority.

We are to submit for two reasons.

1. Because of - _____

All authority exists by divine appointment.

2. To avoid _____.

Those who - “opposed will receive
condemnation upon themselves.”

Titus 3:1–2 Remind them to **BE SUBJECT TO** rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, 2 to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1 Peter 2:13–15 **SUBMIT** yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

“for the Lord's sake”

What is the purpose of government?

“punishment of evildoers” and the “praise of those who do right”

We are commanded as Christians to be submissive, obedient, and respectful to our governing authorities.

How can we say we are to submit to government and and yet defy what it demands?

Why disobedience does not deny the demand for submission.

All three verses use the word

“submit” [hupotasso] and not **“obey”** [hupakouo]

Submission emphasizes a

“Voluntary and willing _____
of the heart”

Obedience comes from

_____ compliance

Our passage could be translated ...

“It is essential that you willingly and habitually
submit yourself to the governing authorities”

Disobedience in the right circumstances does not
_____ the command
to be in subjection to our authorities.

The apostles were submissive in two ways

1. They had a submissive attitude in their arrest.
2. They were willing to accept the consequences for their disobedience.

1. The midwives disobeyed the king.

Exodus 1:15–22 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah the other was named Puah; 16 and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.” 17 But the midwives **FEARED GOD**, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.

18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?” 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them.”

20 So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. 21 Because the midwives **FEARED GOD**, He established households for them.

2. Jochebed (Moses' mother) disobeyed the king.

Exodus 2:1–2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

3. The people disobeyed king Saul's order to kill Jonathan.

1 Samuel 14:44–45 Saul said, “May God do this to me and more also, for you shall surely die, Jonathan.” 45 But the people said to Saul, “Must Jonathan die, who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Far from it! As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day.” So the people rescued Jonathan and he did not die.

4. Queen Vashti refused to be degraded by King Ahasueurus.

Esther 1:10–12 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she was beautiful. 12 But Queen Vashti **REFUSED** to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.

15 “According to law, what is to be done with Queen Vashti, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?”

5. Queen Esther visited the king without permission.

Esther 4:16 “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

6. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego refused to worship the golden image.

Daniel 3:12 “There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

15 But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 “But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

7. Daniel refused to stop praying to God.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

13 Then they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.”

16 Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions’ den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you.”

17 A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

22 “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.”

8. The wisemen refused to follow the orders of Herod.

Matthew 2:7–8 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

9. Angels announced the Lord's birth.

Luke 2:10–11 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

10. Believers will reject the mark of the beast.

Revelation 13:15–17 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

11. Jesus broke Jewish laws.

Mark 2:23–26 And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees were saying to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

12. David broke the law by eating the consecrated bread.

25 And He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; 26 how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?”

When government demands what God forbids or forbids what God commands it is not only right to disobey, but we are _____ to disobey.

Registration Closes on Mon., Feb. 27

Women's Retreat

Fri., March 10 & Sat., March 11

Epworth Forest, North Webster, IN

Ladies College Age & Up | \$40 per person

Join us as we see what God's Word says about women being created for relationship. We will be challenged to cast aside our sin and shame and live as God intended. Closing the retreat with how Godly women should live in community with the one another. Teachers for the retreat are Sonya Butler and Sheryl Hodson. Don't miss this opportunity to spend the time in God's Word with your sisters in Christ.



• Carpool Available at Registration • Scholarships Available •

For more information contact:

Sheryl Hodson, 765-414-3597 voice/text or Jennifer Vigar, 765-469-5637 voice/text

Discussion Guide

1. Define civil disobedience in your own words and share why it is important for us to understand it.
2. Reread Romans 13:1-5, Titus 3:1-2, and 1 Peter 2:13-15 and share additional insights that you discover.
3. Although both should lead to obedience what is the difference between submission and obedience?

Why do the three passages say “be subject to” instead of “be obedient to?”

How can we be disobedient and yet still be submissive?

4. Out of the twelve examples of disobedience, which reason for disobedience seems to stand out above the others?
5. How do you believe you will respond if you are fined or put in Jail for speaking truth?

ANSWERS: Civil Disobedience, Yes, God, chastisement, contradict, attitude, enforced, contradict, obligated