

You know, we're brothers now.

It's kind of like, we're brothers and we can saddle up and be real close and we can forget the authority structure.

That's a temptation.

When we're around people who are authorities over us and they're believers, we kind of expect because we're believers we should get a concession.

And we just don't have to work as hard for them.

He's saying, "*don't be despising them because they're brothers.*" They are but what you're supposed to do is "*serve all the better.*" Why? "*Because those who are benefiting by their helpful service are believers and beloved.*"

So don't be despising them.

Notice how the guy is characterized. 3 words.

He's a brother, he's a believer, and he's beloved.

And so in your attitude toward him you ought to work harder because he is indeed a believer.

When it comes to submitting to authority, and functioning under that authority, the master example is Jesus Christ.

Mark 10:45

***“Jesus Christ came not to be ministered unto but to minister
and to give His life a ransom for many, (John 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

He was submissive to no one and when he was finally crowded into a corner, he would rather torch himself and all the people who were with him rather than submit to the authority and suffer the consequences.

You can go through cult after cult after cult and you discover the same thing, they cannot relate to authority. You take the TV preachers, the common denominator, they are accountable to no one and just because they get caught, they can get themselves out of it and restore themselves rather than submit themselves to authority where there could be healing brought back into their lives.

You see the common denominator.

Here he is saying, when somebody is teaching a different doctrine, you can almost discover it by the relationship that authority has to it.

If Satan had a problem with authority then the people who are following his pattern, these false teachers, they're going to have a problem with authority.

Command #3: *“These things be teaching and exhorting.”*

What things? The things I just got through telling you about the relationship to authority.

Now Paul returns to the false teachers with a little word “If.”

V. 3a “If anyone is teaching a different doctrine, and is not giving assent” there is submission to the authority of the Scripture “is not giving assent to” what?

- 1. “The wholesome sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and**
- 2. “to the teachings which are according to godliness.”**

They are following a different doctrine.

Listen to Galatians 1:6-9:

“I am amazed that you so quickly desert Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel...”

1 Timothy 1:3:

“Even as I urged you to remain longer in Ephesus when I was going to Macedonia, in order that you might instruct certain ones not to teach a different doctrine.”

These false teachers are stubborn. They're *"teaching a different doctrine."* They are prideful, *"not giving assent to the wholesome sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the teaching which is according to godliness."*

Let's talk about that a moment. *"A teaching according to godliness."*

Let me make a statement and see if I can back it up.

There is no such thing as a godly rebel.

Think about that for a minute.

There's no such thing as a godly rebel.

No one can become godly and resist divine authority.

It just goes with the territory.

Listen to Hudson Armerding in his book

The Heart of Godly Leadership:

In summary, the meek person is God-centered rather than self-centered, committed to service rather than success, and investing in the eternal rather than the temporal. And he has become this way because he has responded to our Savior's invitation: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..."

Matthew 11:29

(p. 136)

V. 3d “A teaching according to godliness.” Godliness is something that all of us long for in our lives.

There is no such thing as instant godliness.

As there is no such thing as a godly rebel, there’s no such thing as instant godliness.

The little book of Titus teaches us that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus food from His table, the Word of God, equals godliness.

And you’re as godly today as you have been exposed to the Word of God since you’ve become a believer.

1 Peter 2:2-3: “As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

May I ask you a question? Have you been in the Book today and you have grown a little.

If you haven’t been in the Book today, other Christians are getting ahead of you because they’ve been in the Book and they’ve been studying today.

And if you want to continue to be a little babe, that’s your option.

If you want to learn to grow and to mature in the faith, then you're going to take in the word of God.

Truth equals godliness.

A different gospel doesn't equal godliness.

And that's what Paul is saying here.

Faith plus food equals fruit. True and genuine godliness.

Robert Clinton, no relationship to Bill, wrote a book called *The Making of a Leader* and he says: *Leaders who have trouble submitting to authority will usually have trouble exercising spiritual authority.*

(p. 101)

This challenge occurs throughout their ministry, becoming more subtle as the leader begins to mature.

When it comes to dealing with authority, the Old Testament is very strong about the consequences of when we don't.

In Leviticus 26:19-21 we read this:

"I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve."

God is not in the business of allowing His kids to be rebels.

Let's go to verse 4 and 5.

V. 4 “He is conceited, without understanding; but is having a morbid craving for controversy and a dispute about words, from which comes envy, strife, abusive speech (hurting the good name of another), false suspicions,”

V. 5 “constant irritation of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, thinking that godliness is a way of gain.”

These false teachers are characterized in 5 ways:

They are “*conceited*,”

They “*crave for controversy*,”

They are a “*constant irritation*,”

They are “*corrupted in mind*,”

And they are “*bereft of the truth*.”

Let's just break those words down for just a second and see if we can put some flesh on these guys who are teaching this different doctrine.

First they are *conceited*. That word means “puffed up.”
That’s a word that means, “smoke, fume, filled with a lot of
hot air, inflated.”

“Without understanding” they are “*conceited*” “*but he is
having a morbid craving.*”

That’s the word for sick, ailing, or being diseased.
And having this *morbid craving*, he’s having it for two
things.

“Controversy and a dispute about words.”

Anything to stir up a controversy.

He’s *conceited*, he’s “*without understanding*,”
he’s “*having a morbid craving for controversy and a dispute
about words*” from which comes 5 things.

Five things flow out of it and none of them are pretty.

“From which is coming”:

Envy, that is, filled with malignant ill will;
strife, or wrangling, unwilling to admit defeat;
abusive speech, kind of a defiant irreverence, or blasphemy;
false suspicions he is a person who is suspicious of
everybody and everybody’s an adversary;
and then constant irritation, that’s in verse 5.

V. 5 “*Constant irritation of men [who are] corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth, thinking that godliness is a way of gain.*”

When you come to the word “*constant irritation*” this means that their conflict is with everybody.

They’re just a pain to everybody they’re around.

Because they just won’t accept somebody else’s position.

They’ll always take the other side.

Notice the two things that are said about them.

“*They are corrupted in mind*” and “*they’re bereft of the truth.*”

They’re “*without understanding*” in verse 4 and in verse 5 they are “*bereft of the truth.*”

They really don’t know the first thing about truth.

They’re a constant irritation.

“*Corrupted in mind, bereft of the truth.*”

That’s Satan’s masterpiece.

2 Corinthians 4:4:

“In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not.”

Ephesians 4:18-19:

“Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; they’ve become callous.”

2 Timothy 3:8:

“Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so those men oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards to the faith.”

“Corrupted in mind” and “bereft of the truth.”

Why?

They hear the Bible. They hear the message.

Why are they “bereft of the truth?”

How could a person be sitting here in this room today listening to the word of God and still be “bereft of the truth.”

The only answer to that is in the parable of the sower and the seed.

In Matthew 13:3-9 and Luke 8 Jesus tells that story and he says:

The sower sows the seed and what happens when he sows the seed? Some of it falls on the road and it doesn't germinate cause it's on real hard ground. And because it falls on the road the birds swoop down and take it.

And if you have a hard heart today, and you're having a hard time with authority, it's probably like the seeds that are falling on your heart but they are not going to germinate because Satan's birds are grabbing them up before you get very far away.

That's what it means to be *"bereft of the truth."*

A heart so hard that the Word of God can't get in and take root.

And as a result, there's never really any encounter with truth that changes the life.

And then look at the last part of verse 5.

"Thinking that godliness is a way of gain."

There is the first century prosperity gospel, right there.

Thinking that through godliness you can take advantage of others.

There were many false teachers in various places who made money a real issue in the ministry.

Listen to Titus, he's on the Island of Crete.

Titus 1:11: *"Who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain."*

1 Peter 5:2

"Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising authority not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness."

Be faithful and don't let ministry be mixed up with money.

And that sets the stage for next week's study.

Because a proper relationship to money is a key to being an effective leader.

As we close today are you the kind of leader that's effective because you've learned to be submissive to authority?

There are 10 lessons that come out of this study.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: "A Good Leader Has Learned to Live Comfortably Under Authority"

Law #13

LESSON #2: Before a leader can be effective in the exercise of authority, he must first learn how to submit himself to authority.

LESSON #3: Authority over us must be treated as worthy of all respect in order that the name of God and the teaching might not be brought into disrepute.

LESSON #4: The name of God and the teaching can be affected by our response to authority.

LESSON #5: When authority is exercised over us by Christians, we need to remember that they are brothers, believers, and beloved.

LESSON #6: Our motivation for service should be intensified when we are serving Christian employers.

LESSON #7: The false teacher is conceited and has a craving for controversy.

LESSON #8: Any teaching that does not result in godliness is not good teaching.

LESSON #9: The false teachers are without understanding and bereft of the truth.

LESSON #10: A walk with God does not necessarily guarantee material gain.

STUDIES IN THE FIRST EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY

PART II - 1 TIMOTHY 4-6

"The Laws of Leadership"

Key verse 4:12: *"Let no one look down on you (think little of) because you are young; but keep on becoming an example of the believers in word, in behavior, in love, in faith, in purity."*

LAW NUMBER Thirteen - A Good Leader Has Learned to Live Comfortably under Authority

1 Timothy 6:1-5

Key verse 6:3

Notes

v. 1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves consider their own masters worthy of all respect in order that the name of God and the teaching might not be brought into disrepute.

v. 2 And those who are having believing masters, let them not be despising them because they are brothers, but rather serve all the better, because those who benefit by their helpful service are believers and beloved.

v. 3 These things be teaching and exhorting. If anyone is teaching a different doctrine, and is not giving assent to the wholesome sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the teaching which is according to godliness,

v. 4 he is conceited, without understanding; but is having a morbid craving for controversy and a dispute about words, from which comes envy, strife, abusive speech (hurting the good name of another), false suspicions,

v. 5 constant irritation of men corrupted in mind and bereft the truth, thinking that godliness is a way of gain.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 1 Timothy 6:1-5 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.**
- 2. What two reasons does Paul give for slaves being submissive to their masters, according to verse 1?**
- 3. Describe the believing slave's relationship to a believing master, according to verse 2.**
- 4. How does Paul describe those who are in opposition to his teaching, according to verse 4?**
- 5. What are they "craving," according to verse 4?**
- 6. List the five fruits of "controversy" in verses 4 & 5.**
- 7. In what two ways are they described, according to verse 5?**
- 8. What are they thinking about godliness, according to verse 5?**

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?