

KIDS CATECHISM

Book/Chapter: Romans 13
Category: Practical Christian Living

Date: Week of Dec. 13, 2009
Number: 13

Parent to child(ren): Do you know what the word, “authority” means? Let’s say someone asks the question, “Who’s in charge here,” what do they mean by that? Well, that would be just another way of asking, “Who is in authority here?” So the one who is “in charge: is the one who has the “authority.” Authority is “the right to rule, to lead or to govern.”

Now the Bible teaches us a great many things about authority. For one, God has established it. Another thing is, He has established quite a few different authorities. He has put people “in charge” to help things go the right way. For example, God established the family. He did this to bless, care for and nurture and train children, like you. There, God gave parents authority to direct children to go the right way. God also established government. He gave government the power to punish lawbreakers and to defend the innocent and the weak so that things might go the right way in countries and cities and states. God also established the church. There He gave authority to pastors and elders. He did this to watch over and help care for His people, feed us His Word, and keep false teachers and troublers away, in order for things at church to go the right way.

So there are many people in life who have a certain amount of authority. There are those who have authority at work places, on teams, in groups, clubs and organizations too. In fact, in nearly everything in life, there is some need for authority. Yet over all these authorities, One Authority is the Highest of them all! Do you know who that is? Of course, it is God! And we all owe our first obedience to Him and should submit to Him in everything. But God does not want us to forget that He also is the One who established the other, lesser authorities. And He wants us to willingly, with a good and right heart, obey those authorities too. We’ll learn more about that now from our Bibles.

Q61. Why does God require EVERYONE to submit to authority?

A61. *Because all authority comes from God and was put there by Him. (13:1) (cf., 13:4a; Prov. 8:15-16; Dan. 2:20-21; 4:32; John 19:11)*

Q62. Who then am I really rebelling against if I rebel against an authority?

A62. *I am rebelling against God, since God established the authorities. (13:2). (cf., Titus 3:1)*

Q63. Should I be afraid of authorities? Why of why not?

A63. *No. Only if I disobey, because God established authority for my good! (13:3-4) (cf., I Peter 2:13-14; 3:13)*

Q64. What is one thing that, if I practice it, will be the right thing to do in every case?

A64. *To love my neighbor as myself, because love fulfills all the requirements of the law (13:8-10) (cf., Matthew 22:36-40; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8)*

Q65. God had Paul give one final encouragement for taking all this to heart; what was it?

A65. *The time is short; Jesus is coming again soon! (13:11-12)*

*** *Italicized words can be used as shortened answers for smaller children. Older children can be helped to understand and learn the full answers.*

SCRIPTURES TO HELP YOUR KIDS HIDE IN THEIR HEARTS

KJV

Romans 13:1a, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers..."

Romans 13:8, "Owe no man anything but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

Romans 13:12, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

NLT

Romans 13:1a, "Everyone must submit to the governing authorities..."

Romans 13:8, "Owe nothing to anyone – except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor you will fulfill the requirements of God's law."

Romans 13:12, "The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living."

----- Suggested Memory Work -----

Up to age 6 / answers only (shortened, *italicized* answers)

Ages 7 - 9 / shortened answers plus one scripture

Ages 10-12 / full answers plus one or two scriptures

Ages 13 & up / full answers plus all three scriptures

NOTE TO DADS: At least one day this week, sit and read the "Parent to child(ren) section with your family. Then, read **Romans 13** with them (let those who can take turns and share in the reading). Make sure everyone is using the same translation. Next, go over the questions with them and see how they do just getting the basic idea. After that, help them with the wording of the answers (giving them one Q & A on M-F and encouraging them to memorize the answer is one way you could approach this part). By reading God's Word to them and passing on to them the things God is teaching you at Calvary Chapel, you will be discipling your own family, equipping them to be strong in the Lord and mighty in His Word (*see, 1 John 2:14b*)!