

OBEYING LEADERSHIP

From the "Revolution for Jesus" Handbook--
1972

Dear Teens,

Since most of you have probably never had this very important class, we've reprinted here this original class from the "Revolution for Jesus" Handbook that most of our adults had in the Early Days of the Family, when only one or two weeks in the Family! Seeing what God's Word says about obeying His appointed leadership, sure gave us the vision for obeying & respecting our elders & parents in the Lord, & we hope it will be a blessing to you in the same way! PTL! WLY!

(Each time you see a number in parenthesis in the left column, please read the corresponding number & Bible verse in the right column.)

GOD'S FAMILY--Because you're a child of God (1), God is your Father (2) & Leader (3). In God's Family you also have parents (4) & brothers & sisters (5); some older & some younger. Your brothers & sisters are your fellow born-again believers who are doing God's Will. You should obey & respect your parents & older brothers & sisters in the Lord accordingly (6).

The Church (the body of believers--the "called out" ones) is God's Family or household (7). It is run by the divine order of God's Spirit. God puts elders & leaders in His Church through whom He leads His Family (8). We are to obey God's appointed leadership (9) & follow Them (10).

THE LORD'S BODY--The Bible often describes the Church as a body (11).



1. Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal.3:26)
2. Call no man your father upon Earth: for One is your Father, which is in Heaven. (Mat.23:9)
3. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. (Mat.23:10). The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. (Mat.10:24)
4. Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. (Eph.6:1)
5. For whosoever shall do the will of My Father whTch is in Heaven, the same is My brother, & sister & mother. (Mat.12:50)
6. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, & be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, & giveth grace to the humble. (1Pe.5:5)
7. Now therefore ye are no more strangers & foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, & of the household of God. (Eph.2:19)
8. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (1Cor.12:28) For promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South. But God is the Judge: He putteth down one, & setteth up another. (Psa.75:6,7)
9. Obey them that have the rule over you, & submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, & not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Heb.13:17)
10. Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (1Cor.11:1) And ye became followers of us, & of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost. (1Th.1:6) I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. (1Cor.4:14-16)
11. There is one body & one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one

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Jesus is the Head & Leader of the body or Church (12). We Christians are the individual members which make up that body of Christ (13). The body can function together properly only if each of the members submits himself to the Head & the rest of the body (14). Just as the hand controls the fingers & the arm controls the hand & the shoulder controls the arm, etc., so it is in the body of Christ (15).

God appoints certain members of the body to be leaders of other members, for the overall good of the whole body (16). We are to obey & submit ourselves unto these chosen members because God has put them over us (17).

GOD'S SHEEP & SHEPHERDS--Another way the Lord describes His Church or people is as His sheep (18). The Lord Himself is our Shepherd (19). A sheep is one of the most stupid animals in the World. It cannot take care of itself. It is totally dependent upon the Shepherd for its life & guidance & it follows him wherever he leads. On the other hand, goats, which outwardly look very much like sheep, are one of the most stubborn, rebellious animals in the world. Sheep, you simply lead (20), but goats, you must drive.

Read Mat. 25:31-46. Are you a humble, submissive sheep, or an old goat? We will know by how well you submit to your Shepherds.--Yes, Shepherds. Read 1Pe. 5:1-4. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, & elders (v1) are His personal, appointed undershepherds or overseers of His flock. Don't be surprised if your Shepherd (elder or leader) wants to know everything about you & seems to always be watching you. They are commanded to do so in God's Word (21). Don't let your pride, which is your biggest enemy, interfere with God's plan & allow you to become offended (22). Remember, pride is a worse enemy to you than the Devil because pride is what defeated the Devil (23).



Verses:

- baptism, One God & Father of all, who is above all, & through all, & in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6)
12. But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; & the head of the woman is the man; & the Head of Christ is God. (1Cor. 11:3)
 13. Now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him. Now are they many members, but one body. Now ye are the body of Christ, & members in particular. (1Co. 12:18, 20, 27)
 14. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. (1Pe. 5:6) (See also 6.)
 15. From whom the whole body fitly joined together & compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase in the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Eph. 4:16)
 16. (Psa. 75:6, 7--See #8.)
And He gave some, apostles; & some, prophets; & some evangelists; & some pastors & teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11, 12)
 17. (Heb. 13:17--See #9.)
 18. Know ye that the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made us, & not we ourselves; we are His people & the sheep of His pasture. (Psa. 100:3)
 19. The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. (Psa. 23:1)
 20. My sheep hear My voice, & I know them & they follow Me. (John 10:27)
 21. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, & to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His Own blood. (Acts 20:28) Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, & look well to thy herds. (Pro. 27:23)
 22. Great peace have they which love Thy law & nothing shall offend them. (Psa. 119:165)
 23. How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit.

Pride is what makes people rebel against leadership (24).

GOD HAS ALWAYS LED HIS PEOPLE

THROUGH A MAN--God has always had His man for the hour. He chose one man--Noah, one man--Abraham, one man--Isaac, one man--Jacob (Israel), one man--Joseph, one man--Moses, one man--Joshua. And God can use a woman just as well if there's no man, like Deborah, one man--Gideon, one man--Samson, one man--Samuel, one man--Saul, one man--David, one man--Solomon, one man--Elijah, one man--Elisha, one man--Isaiah, one man--Jeremiah, one man--Daniel, one man--Ezra, one man--Zerubbabel, one man--Nehemiah, one man--John the Baptist, one Man--Jesus Christ, one man--Peter (pastor of the Early Church), one man--Paul, one man--Martin Luther... & one man in the Last Days--David, "the servant of God!" (25) That's the way God has always done it (26).

ACCORDING TO DEUT. 34:10, MOSES WAS THE GREATEST OF GOD'S LEADERS IN THE BIBLE.

Therefore it would behoove us to use him as an example of leadership (27). Read Exodus chapter 3 through chapter 4:16. Moses got his calling directly from God; it was not his own idea. In fact, three times he tried to get out of it because he thought himself incapable. God told him he would be God's personal representative to the people.

Read in Exo. 16:1-9 how the people murmured against Moses (v2) & he tells them that their murmurings are not against him, but against the Lord (v8-9). So murmuring against leadership is murmuring against God (28). Read Exo. 17:1-7. Murmuring against leadership is tempting the Lord.

Read Exo. 18:13-26. When you get a large group of people together, the best way to oversee & to take care of them all properly is to organise them so that the top leader is only responsible for a few head people. (The ideal is 12, as Jesus proved. See Mat. 10:1-5). Each head or leader is responsible for a group & each in that group are responsible for a smaller group, etc. This is the Scriptural way of delegating authority.

Read Exodus 32. Sometimes leadership must go off by themselves to counsel & hear from God. When they do, watch out that impatience, doubts & fears don't cause you to murmur against leadership & forsake the Lord. 3,000 men died because of this mistake.

Read Numbers 11. Two lessons are contained there: 1. If you murmur & complain

(Isa. 14:12-15)

24. Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings & sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, & to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, & stubbornness is as iniquity & idolatry. (1Sam. 15:22,23)
25. And I will set up one shepherd over them, & he shall feed them, even My servant David; he shall feed them, & he shall be their shepherd. (Eze. 34:23)
And David My servant shall be king over them; & they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in My judgements, & observe My statutes & do them. (Eze. 37:24) Afterward shall the children of Israel return & seek the Lord their God, & David their king; & shall fear the Lord & His goodness in the latter days. (Hos. 3:5) And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, & the song of the Lamb, saying, Great & marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just & true are Thy ways, Thou King of Saints. (Rev. 15:3)
26. For I am the Lord, I change not. (Mal. 3:6) Jesus Christ, the same yesterday & today & forever. (Heb. 13:8)
27. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; & are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the World are come. (1Cor. 10:11) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience & comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)
28. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me. (Mat. 25:40)



Class Text

about something, God may give it to you even though it's not the best thing for you (29). Murmuring makes God angry! ("God Hates Murmuring!", ML# 1879) 2. When there was too much responsibility for Moses, God appointed others to help Moses carry the load.

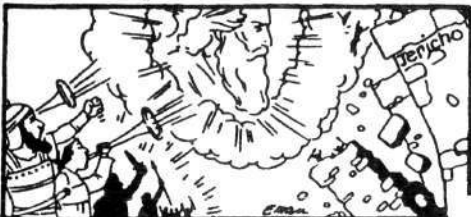
Read Numbers 12. Moses married a black girl which was forbidden by his own law (See Deu.7:1-6). His two top under-officers murmured against him because of it, but God rebuked them & stood up for Moses.

The leader may not always be perfect, but he's still God's appointed leader. Here God showed that even if the leader does something that you think is wrong or unScriptural, you'd better not murmur because God ordained him to be the leader. (This does not mean that those in positions of leadership abuse their responsibilities, but there may be times when the Lord tells them to do something contrary to "normal" rules to prove a point or to somehow accomplish His purpose.)

Read Numbers 16, where the Lord opened the Earth to swallow up the murmurers! (30) Here is an instance where 250 of the greatest men in the whole movement led a rebellion against Moses' leadership (31). 14,700 other men died of a plague because of this act of murmuring & rebellion against leadership.

JOSHUA, MOSES' SUCCESSOR, WAS ANOTHER OF GOD'S GREAT LEADERS (32). In Joshua 1:3-6, God gives the vision to His ordained leaders first. Joshua is exhorted by God to keep in memory & take heed to the wise counsel given by Moses (33). He is commanded by God to believe, study & follow completely the Bible (34). The people support & give Joshua complete allegiance as God's appointed leader (35). A stiff penalty is set for disobedience to God's leaders (36).

OBEDIENCE, SUBMITTING & FOLLOWING. You should not only obey, but submit yourself (37). Obedience is an outward act, but submitting is yielding in your spirit or heart (38). You can be obedient, but not really willing (39).



Verses:

29. And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul. (Psa.106:15)
30. But if the Lord make a new thing, & the earth open her mouth, & swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, & they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord. And it came to pass, as he made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, & swallowed them up, & their houses, & all the men that appertained unto Korah, & all their goods. They went down alive into the pit, & the earth closed upon them: & they perished from among the congregation. (Num.16:30-33)
31. And there came out a fire from the Lord, & consumed the two hundred & fifty men that offered incense. (Num.16:35)
32. And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: & the children of Israel hearkened unto him, & did as the Lord commanded Moses. (Deu.34:9)
33. Only be thou strong & very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not thou from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (Jos.1:7)
34. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day & night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, & then thou shalt have good success. (Jos.1:8)
35. And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, & whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. (Josh.1:16)
36. Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, & will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong & of a good courage. (Josh.1:18)
37. (Heb.13:17--See #9)
38. The Lord said unto Samuel, For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. (1Sam.16:7)
39. If ye be willing & obedient, ye shall eat of the good of the land: But if ye refuse & rebel, ye shall be devoured

