

# Always Respect Authority

18

The Scripture says in Romans 13:1, “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.” And the next verse warns, “Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God. God has ordained certain powers and authorities, and we must identify such authorities and submit ourselves. One authority is our parents. We are plainly told in Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” The expression, “in the Lord,” means “as God’s appointed representatives over you.” In other words, to disobey parents is to disobey God Himself.

The same goes for all authority, whether it be the policeman, the judge, the governor or someone else. We must distinguish between personality and position. We do not have to respect a person who may be immoral and wicked; but if that person holds a position of authority, then we must respect the position.

Children must be taught obedience and submission at home. Dr. John R. Rice once said, “The best way to get rid of criminals is to stop raising them.” When a parent allows a child to get by with disrespect and disobedience, the child grows up to have disrespect and to disobey schoolteachers, policemen and others.

The problem with rebellious people and criminals is that they were not taught early to respect authority.

Cultivate a habit of saying, “Yes, sir,” “No, sir,” “Yes, ma’am” and “No, ma’am,” to your parents and grandparents and all others in a position of authority over you.