

THE LIFE OF DAVID
Lesson #5 - A Man In Submission To Authority

d.) **Colossians 3:22, 1 Peter 2:18**

4. Was David submissive to these same structures? Try to locate verses that support your answer.

5. Can you think of a time when David did not submit to authority?

Insight ►

All authorities are limited, and one way in which they are limited is by God's moral law. Even God's authority is limited by this. He never does anything that is morally wrong.

The same is true in human relationships. A father has no right to tell his wife or children to do something morally wrong. That is beyond the "limits" of his authority. The same is true for an employer, government official, or a spiritual leader.

6. List examples of how the following authorities might exceed their rightful limits:

a.) Family –

b.) Government –

c.) Employer –

d.) Spiritual –

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7. Most problems for us arise not when authorities exceed their limits, but rather when we fail to be obedient to the authorities acting within their limits.
- a.) Which one of God's limits does David break in 1 Samuel 21:1-9?
 - b.) Was it okay for David to lie under these extreme circumstances?
 - c.) What were the consequences of this "little" lie? 1 Samuel 22:9-22.
 - d.) Because God has set up all authority, we place ourselves in danger when we go against our authorities. As you think about your relationship with the four structures of authority, not to mention God's overall authority, are you aware of any actions or attitudes which you have that are rebellious? List them below and your plan to change:
8. Saul also gives us examples of not submitting to God's authority. For each of the following three passages, determine **how** Saul rebelled, **why** he rebelled, and **what** the consequences were:
- a.) 1 Samuel 13:1-13
 - b.) 1 Samuel 15:1-29
 - c.) 1 Samuel 28:1-19
9. Read 1 Peter 2:13-15. Why should we submit ourselves to authorities according to these verses?

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10. Another reason to submit to authorities (good or bad) is because authorities are one of God's primary means of helping change our character to be more Christ-like.

a.) What character issue do you think God might have been working on in David's life while he was submitting to Saul?

b.) Can you think of a character trait in your life that God may be trying to change through one of the authorities in your life?

11. David was submissive to an angry, jealous, unstable authority.

a.) Was God in control of this situation?

b.) How was God acting in David's best interests through these situations?

Thought ►

The word "submission" creates strong emotions in most women. What does it mean to be submissive? Should submission to a man begin before you are married? Is submission intellectual suicide or dehumanizing?

12. If Jesus Christ was your supervisor at work or some other authority on a human level, would your attitudes, responses, or actions be any different? Should they be different? (Consider Colossians 3:17 and 3:23)