

**PROVERBS, USER MANUAL ON LIFE IN CHRIST
DIVINE TRUTHS REGARDING EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

PAGE 1

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED THAT **LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY** HAS BEEN DIVINELY INSTITUTED. GOD PUTS SO MUCH WEIGHT IN LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY THAT EVEN THE PAGAN LEADERS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS ROME IN THE APOSTLE PAUL'S DAY WAS GIVEN DIVINE SANCTION;

Romans 13:1 "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God". 2 "Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." (Read to verse 7).

THIS REFERS TO GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES BUT, AS WE CAN LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY IS SUPPORTED BY GOD.

THAT CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS IS INDISPUTABLE. WHAT WE MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT CHRONIC DISOBEDIENCE TO PARENTS WAS A CAPITOL OFFENSE IN THE MOSAIC LAW;

Deut 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, 19 his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. 20 They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." 21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

I'M NOT SUGGESTING CAPITOL PUNISHMENT FOR REBELLIOUS CHILDREN. I OFFER THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE GOD PLACES LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY *EVEN IN THE FAMILY UNIT*.

THE CHURCH IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY IS OF CONCERN TO THE LORD;

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (NIV).

HERE THE LEADERS ARE SHOWN TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE LORD FOR PROPER LEADERSHIP. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH OBEDIENCE IS THAT THEY HAVE JOY IN THEIR LEADERSHIP AND THE FLOCK HAS REWARD FOR THEIR OBEDIENCE.

JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HEAVENLY FATHER;

John 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT WE GRASP THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S INSTITUTION OF LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY OR WE WILL SEVERELY LIMIT THE OPPORTUNITY OF GOD'S BLESSING IN OUR LIVES;

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

PERMIT ME TO MAKE THIS CORRELATION; WE CANNOT LEARN TO SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY IN ANY OTHER WALK OF LIFE - THE WORKPLACE, GOVERNMENT OR THE CHURCH UNTIL WE HAVE LEARNED TO HONOR AND EMULATE THE TEACHINGS AND PRECEPTS OF OUR PARENTS. IT TAKES YEARS OF *LEARNING OBEDIENCE* TO OUR PARENTS' VALUES AND POLICIES - THEN WE ARE READY FOR LIFE "OUT THERE." LET US CONTINUE WITH LAST WEEK'S LESSON.

TRUE LEADERSHIP IS MAINTAINED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS

Prov 16:13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth. 14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise

**PROVERBS, USER MANUAL ON LIFE IN CHRIST
DIVINE TRUTHS REGARDING EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

PAGE 2

man will appease it¹. 15 When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

NOW, LET'S TURN TO THE SUBJECTS OF THIS LEADERSHIP. A LEADER CAN BE DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS BIBLICALLY, BUT IT IS UP TO THOSE UNDER HIS AUTHORITY TO RESPOND BIBLICALLY.

FIRST, LET US LOOK AT VERSE 13 AND APPLY IT TO THE HOME. HONESTY IS ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESSFUL HOUSEHOLD. **DECEIT** IS THE FIRST-LINE MEANS OF AVOIDING THE AUTHORITY OF A FATHER. THIS IS TRUE IN EVERY AREA OF AUTHORITY. A FATHER CAN HAVE A GOOD POLICY REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF HIS CHILD BUT IF THE CHILD REBELS AND IS DECEITFUL IN AVOIDING HIS FATHER'S POLICY HE THEN HAS ROBBED THAT HOME OF GOD'S BLESSING. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT - **GOD WILL BLESS THE HOME WHOSE MEMBERS AVOID DECEIT.** THE TEMPTATION IS (PERHAPS EVEN FOR THE WIFE) TO ASSUME "WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM" IN ORDER TO GET AROUND DAD'S POLICY AND TO SATISFY IMMEDIATE DESIRES - THE PRICE TO BE PAID IS THE CLOUD OF FRUSTRATION, UNSPOKEN ANGER BY DAD WHO IS FORCED TO COPE WITH THIS UNDERMINING OF HIS LEADERSHIP. **AVOID TRYING TO GET AROUND DAD'S POLICY.**

VERSE 14 HAS AN IMPORTANT POINT - HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS SHOULD ACTIVELY SEEK OUT WHAT PLEASES THE FATHER SO THAT HIS POLICY CAN BE CARRIED OUT. THE ORIGINAL FOR OUR WORD "APPEASE" MEAN TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID PROVOKING DAD'S DISPLEASURE. *WE ARE NOT PAINTING A PICTURE OF A TANTRUM-DRIVEN MAN WHO IS MANIPULATING HIS FAMILY FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL WHIMS OR DESIRES (THAT WOULD NOT BE A RIGHTEOUS FATHER) BUT RATHER, WE ARE DEPICTING A MAN WHO IS PRAYERFULLY LEADING HIS HOME AND IS LIVING UP TO HIS DIVINELY APPOINTED ROLE AS HEAD OF THE HOME.*

VERSE 15. THIS VERSE ALLUDES TO ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE SPRING RAIN. **CARRYING OUT A RIGHTEOUS FATHER'S POLICY RESULTS IN THE LORD'S BLESSING ON THAT HOUSE.** WHETHER IT IS IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT, AN ORGANIZATION (YES, INCLUDING THE CHURCH) OR THE HOME, THE LORD TEACHES HERE THAT CAUSING THE "KING" TO SMILE BY CARRYING OUT HIS POLICY RESULTS BLESSING. THE SPRING RAIN WAS VERY IMPORTANT IN BIBLICAL TIMES. IN ORDER FOR THE CROP TO TAKE ROOT THE FARMER DEPENDED ON THE SPRING RAIN. SPRING RAIN MEANT GOD'S BLESSING ON THE LAND IN GOOD CROPS. GOOD CROPS MEANT THE FAMILY WOULD PROSPER FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

LET'S APPLY THIS TO THE HOME - PLEASING A RIGHTEOUS FATHER MEANS THAT THAT HOME WILL BE SPIRITUALLY FUNCTIONAL AND READY TO RECEIVE THE LORD'S BLESSING. ALL THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF BLESSING WILL COME INTO PLAY BECAUSE NOT ONLY ARE IMPORTANT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES BEING FULFILLED BUT DAD IS FREED TO FULFILL HIS ROLE AS PROVIDER AND BLESSER² OF THE HOME.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS LEADER.

Prov 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

THE PEOPLE WILL MOURN IF THOSE IN AUTHORITY ARE UNJUST. THEY WILL MOURN IF THEY ARE OPPRESSED, BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY WILL MOURN IF THE LORD REMOVES HIS BLESSING FROM THAT NATION. IN THE FAMILY CONTEXT, THE HOME WILL MOURN IF DAD NEGLECTS HIS GOD-GIVEN ROLE AS THE DIVINELY APPOINTED HEAD AND BLESSER OF THE HOME. HERE IS THE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE TO DAD - **IF YOU NEGLECT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, YOU ARE DOING YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN AN INCALCULABLE DISSERVICE.** ALL THESE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S BLESSING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOME DEPENDS ON YOUR FULFILLING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD

¹ Some children have a knack for reading dad's face. My youngest daughter once confided in me that when she found out what displeased me, she made a mental note - "don't do that." A sensible and doctrinally correct "policy" on her part.

² The role of the father of the home blessing those in the home is an overlooked but active principle. Read Gen 27:4, 7, 33; 48:9-20; 49. The father has the divinely appointed role of observing his children, guiding them in the way they should go (the "aiming" principle of Psalm 127:4 - "mighty" = man of valor) and sending them along with his "blessing." Children who refuse to please their father miss out on this blessing.

**PROVERBS, USER MANUAL ON LIFE IN CHRIST
DIVINE TRUTHS REGARDING EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

PAGE 3

THE HOME **IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

MOM, CHILDREN - IF YOUR HUSBAND, YOUR FATHER IS LEADING YOUR HOME ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES (EVEN THOUGH HE MAKES MISTAKES, EVEN THOUGH HE IS IMPERFECT) HONOR HIM AND BUILD ON HIS POLICY. YOU HAVE A HEAVEN-SENT RESOURCE FOR A SUCCESSFUL HOUSE-HOLD, THANK GOD AND HONOR IT.

**A LEADER'S GODLY CHARACTER AND WISDOM
DETERMINE HIS SUCCESS**

Prov 20:28 **Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.**

LET'S BROADEN THE SCOPE OF OUR STUDY FOR A MOMENT. GODLY LEADERSHIP IS ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT ON A NATIONAL, AN ORGANIZATIONAL AND A FAMILY LEVEL. THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY IS BEING TORN TO SHREDS BECAUSE WE AS A NATION, RIGHT DOWN TO THE FAMILY HAVE NEGLECTED A VERY IMPORTANT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE: OUR COUNTRY, OUR BUSINESSES, OUR FAMILIES MUST OBSERVE BIBLICAL, MORAL TRUTHS AND SHOW MORAL CHARACTER (SUCH AS MERCY) IF WE EXPECT TO REMAIN AS A PROSPEROUS NATION WITH PROSPEROUS BUSINESS AND FAMILIES THAT NOT FRACTURED BUT ARE SECURE AND ENDURING.

WORD STUDY ON "UPHOLDEN." THE ORIGINAL FOR THIS WORD MEANS TO SUPPORT, COMFORT, ESTABLISH, HOLD UP, REFRESH, STRENGTHEN. WHAT THIS VERSE IS TEACHING IS THAT OUR SUCCESS AS A NATION, AS MILLIONS OF FAMILIES DEPENDS ON GODLY MEN LEADING IN GOD'S TRUTH. EVERY AREA OF OUR NATION DEPENDS ON GODLY MEN WHO SHOW THE LORD'S MORAL CHARACTER AND OBSERVE HIS BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN THEIR DAILY WALK. **THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE - THE CHURCH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT - IT IS A MATTER OF THE SURVIVAL OF OUR NATION (WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY) AND OUR FAMILIES AS WE KNOW IT. WE NEED GOD'S BLESSING ON OUR NATION AND OUR FAMILIES IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. WE ARE NOT PROSPERING AS A NATION BECAUSE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS OR BECAUSE WE SOMEHOW ARE SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE THINGS OUT - WE ARE PROSPERING AS A NATION BECAUSE GOD IS BLESSING THE LIVES OF GODLY LEADERS AND THE REST OF THE NATION IS ENJOYING GOD'S COMMON GRACE WHERE "THE RAIN FALLS ON THE JUST AND THE UNJUST"**³.

GOD'S ADVISE TO GOOD LEADERS⁴ (ALL PROVERBS REFS.)

THE FOLLOWING IS GOD'S ADVISE TO GOOD LEADERS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. LISTEN ONLY TO UPRIGHT ADVISORS:
29:12;25:4, 5. | 4. BE IMPARTIAL AND FAIR IN JUDGMENT: 24:23; 18:5. |
| 2. BEWARE OF PEOPLE WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES: 19:6. | 5. DEFEND THE DISADVANTAGED: 31:8, 9. |
| 3. THOROUGHLY EXAMINE IMPORTANT ISSUES: 25:2. | 6. PUNISH THE WICKED: 20:8, 26; 24:24, 25; 17:15. |

³ Mat 5:45

⁴ Taken from Wellsprings of Life, Understanding Proverbs, Donald Orthner.