

**Title: Lily of the Valley**  
**Pastor: Franz Esser**  
**Date: 12 April 2009**  
**Time: 09:00**



1. AUTHORITY!
2. SUBMISSION!
3. ORDER!

So the real title of the message:

**God's order: authority & submission**

### **Isaiah 9:7**

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, **to order it and establish it with judgment and justice** from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

### **Job 10:21, 22**

<sup>21</sup> Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, to the land of darkness and the shadow of death,  
<sup>22</sup> a land as dark as darkness itself, as the shadow of death, **without any order, where even the light is like darkness.**"

## **1. Order exists within the Godhead**

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit are both subject to the authority of God the Father;
- Even within the Godhead, where all three persons are equal, we see in clear operation the principles of both mutual submission and a complete deference to the ultimate will and purpose of God the Father.

### **John 12:49**

"For I [Jesus] have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

### **John 16:13**

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

## **2. Order exists within society**

- A tiered authority structure and the principle of delegation of authority are essential to the normal functioning of all society;
- God has both created and is committed to this order in society (even secular society);
- God honours the office above the person, to the point where God will use unbelievers who are in a position of authority to exercise His will, rather than to usurp authority to fulfil His purpose;
- God expects all men, believers and non-believers alike, to submit to these natural authorities.

### **Romans 13:1**

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

## **2 Chronicles 36:22**

<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, <sup>23</sup> Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!

## **1 Peter 2:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – <sup>16</sup> as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

### **3. Order exists in the Kingdom**

- It is essential for the normal functioning of the church that all believers:
  1. Submit to God;
  2. Submit to one another;
  3. Submit to the authorities in the church that God has appointed.
- We should not expect the supernatural intervention [grace] of God if we have not first committed to the natural principle.

## **James 4:7**

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

## **1 Peter 5:5**

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble".

### **4. Godly order is governed by Godly authority**

- There are levels of authority in the body of Christ;
- God appoints to positions of authority those whom He wills (i.e. these appointments are not made by man but God Himself);
- As believers, we must operate within the boundaries of the authority that has been given us (horizontally) and we must defer to those in authority over us (vertically);
- Know your position in the kingdom and hold it steadfastly in the day of battle.

## **1 Corinthians 12:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles. (etc)

## **2 Corinthians 10:13**

We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

## **Joel 2:7b – 8a**

<sup>7b</sup> Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks.

<sup>8a</sup> They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column

## 5. Order must be honoured

- God has created this order to protect us, not to restrict us;
- Resisting the authority God has placed over us is a bad idea;
- It is akin to rebellion and sexual immorality and we will bring judgement upon ourselves if we do not repent.

### 2 Peter 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup> The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment <sup>10</sup> and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them [the dignitaries] before the Lord. <sup>12</sup> But these...will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness....

### Romans 13:2

Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

### Psalms 81:15

The haters of the Lord would pretend submission to Him, But their fate would endure forever.

## 6. Order is holy to the Lord

- Order and authority holy to God and we must be careful never to abuse it:
  1. Consider the “natural” life of a believer to see if it conforms to biblical requirements before appointing him/ her to leadership. If someone cannot exercise “natural” authority correctly, they cannot be trusted to exercise spiritual authority;
  2. Leaders must understand that the Lord has given us authority primarily to build and not to break;
  3. Leaders must adhere to the principle of mutual submission, which means they must be humble enough to receive a rebuke or correction from the smallest of believers to the greatest of unbelievers;
  4. The kind of godly leadership God seeks to establish is servant leadership. We are not to lord our authority over others like many unbelievers do, but to use it as a position to serve those whom God has placed under our care.

### 1 Timothy 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup> A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach; <sup>3</sup> not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; <sup>4</sup> one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence <sup>5</sup> (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); <sup>6</sup> not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

### Matthew 20:25-28

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

## 7. God's order is Satan's worst

- The ultimate breakdown of authority will come in the last days, when men will completely overturn the God-given order and make Satan the ultimate authority;
- God will allow this depravity for a short while so that there can be an unmistakable distinction between those who serve Satan and those who serve God as the ultimate authority. At that point God will deliver His final judgment;
- This emphasises why godly order and authority is so important. Satan's aim has always been to usurp God's order, but God has prevented him from achieving that in totality;
- At the end of the age God will allow the beast to rear its head in full view of all the earth so that the choice between what is God's and what is not is clear, so that God's final judgment can be unreserved.

### Revelation 13:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, ...and on his heads a blasphemous name... <sup>2</sup> ... The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority... <sup>3</sup> ...and all the world marvelled and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast...

<sup>5</sup> And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.... <sup>7</sup> ...authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation... whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb..."

### Revelation 17:12-14

<sup>12</sup> The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. <sup>13</sup> These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup> These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.