**Restoration Ministries**

**Study Guide Unrighteous Control vs. Godly Leadership**

What is the best way to develop the ability to discern counterfeit money?

As Christians, living in this world of deception and counterfeits, **we must be able to discern the difference between what is of God and not of God.** Paul warned the church at Corinth about being deceived by false teachers and counterfeits when he said, “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds should somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor. 11:3) and then says of these false teachers in v.13 - “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.”

What is a key area where Satan uses deception and confusion in the world, the church, and even marriage and family relationships?

Distorting **leadership and authority from God,** so it becomes **unrighteous**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ends up being destructive and abusive.**

What are some examples in you have experienced or seen a wrong use of authority or control by someone in authority that has damaged others?

In Government?

At work?

In a church or religious organization?

Marriage or family relationships?

**I. What Are the Characteristics of God Ordained Authority (Leadership)?** Ex. Of

God’s Authority in the Beginning (3 characteristics)

**A. God Ordained Authority is Real** – Established and ordained by \_\_\_\_\_\_ from

whom all authority comes.

1. Gen. 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”. He’s the

creator and created all things. Who did God create?

a. He created all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What were they to do?

What did Lucifer do with his God given authority? Ezk. 28:14, Is. 14:12-15

b. God also created \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In Ps. 8:4-5, the Psalmist asks “What is man

that you (God) are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

**You made him (mankind) a little lower than the heavenly beings and**

**crowned him with glory and honor.”**

2. When God created Adam and Eve, what were they to do? - Gen. 1:26, 28

a. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over God’s creation

b. They were not created to rule over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ other.

3. God also provided real and fair rules for Adam and Eve to follow. – What were

those rules? Gen. 1:29,2:15-17

4. God has ordained real and godly authority and leadership in every aspect of life.

He ordains government, leadership in the family, in His church, in the work

place, etc., **so there is an environment in which God can work.** Without God

ordained authority and leadership there would be chaos and anarchy in this sinful

world.

a. Do you agree or disagree with the previous statement? Why or Why Not?

5. Personal Application – If we are in a place of God given authority such as parent-

ing, or leading a family, church, or Christian organization, our directives must be

real and fair.

**B. God Ordained Authority is Relational**

1. Gen. 2:8-9 tells us God put Adam in a beautiful garden with “trees that were

pleasing to the eye and good for food.” – What God created for man to enjoy

was delightful in every way.

2. God saw Adam was alone. What did a **relational** God do? Gen. 2:18, 22-24

God fellowshipped with them on a regular basis, until they sinned and began

hiding from God.

3. **Godly authority will always be relational.** Ungodly authority \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

relationships.

**C. God Ordained Authority is Righteous – It never uses unrighteous means to**

**control people.**

1. God created mankind with a free \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. What is at the heart of God’s authority? What did God do to provide an

**a**tonementfor Adam and Eve after they sinned? (Gen. 3:21)

3. Righteous authority and leadership establishes an atmosphere where God can

work.

4. How can men and women can be guilty of abusive control in marriage

relationships?

a. Gen. 3:16-19 lists consequences Adam and Eve would experience as a result of

disobeying God and having a sinful nature.

b. What would be the consequences for Eve? – v. 16

1) How would childbearing be affected?

2) What did God mean when He said “Your desire shall be for your husband,

and he shall rule over you?” – v. 16b Cmp. Gen. 4:6-7

3) The idea in Gen. 3:16 is that because of Eve’s sinful nature she would want

to rule over or dominate her husband instead of following his leadership,

but he would rule over her. However, because of his sinful nature his

leadership could be abusive and be used in an ungodly way.

c. How does this tension because of the mankind’s fall into sin affect marriage

today?

d. Who must be the head in our homes?

**D. Personal Application**

1. The key to having the proper balance of leadership in marriage and family

relationships, and between the Christian employer and employee that is **Real,**

**Relational and Righteous** is outlined in Eph. 5:18–6:9.

a. Before Paul outlines the husband and wife role in the Christian marriage he

gives a contrasting command in v. 18.

“Do not be drunk with wine”– do not let alcohol **control** you and your behaviors

**“Be filled (controlled) with the Spirit”** – Let the Holy Spirit be in control in

your life which will produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit **which is love.**

b. How will the Holy Spirit’s control impact the Christian husband and wife?

1) There will be joyful worship and communication and sharing of spiritual truth

that will encourage and edify one another. – v. 19

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God and one another – v. 20

3) Mutual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to one another instead of selfishly trying to dominate

one another. – v.21

4) The husband will love his wife with self-sacrificing love resulting in her being

nurtured and cherished, and the wife will respond to and follow his loving

leadership, and will want to respect him. – 5:22-33

5) Their marriage becomes a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ’s relationship to

His bride (the church) and the church’s relationship to Christ.

6) Are these characteristics a part of your marriage relationship?

7) Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s control evident in your marriage, or are the

works of the flesh evident in your marriage?

c. How will the Holy Spirit’s control affect the parent child relationship? Eph. 6:1-4

d. The employer, employee relationship?

**II. Examples of Righteous Authority**

**A. Joseph – Gen. 37-50**

1. What happened to Joseph?

2. What places of authority was he given?

a. By Potiphar? Gen. 39:2-6

b. By the keeper of the prison? Gen. 39:21-23

3. After Joseph was released from prison, and was elevated to become 2nd in

command in Egypt, how did he use his authority?

4. His leadership is beautiful picture of the supreme example of righteous authority.

**B. Jesus Christ**

1. Jesus is our perfect example of how righteous authority and leadership is to be

fleshed out in everyday living.

2. He was and is God – What did He do? Phil. 2: 6-8

a. He did not lay aside his deity, but willingly laid aside certain aspects of the

manifestation and privileges of His deity to become the God man.

b. He did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life on the cross as the

ultimate act of serving.

c. What did God the Father do for Him as a result of His willing surrender? v.9-11

3. What did the Lord Jesus command all believers to do in Matt. 28:18?

a. How are we to go?

b. We are to go in and with His authority, but that authority must be fleshed

out as godly Christ-like authority.

1) What does God given spiritual authority do when it becomes carnal

and ungodly?

b. What did the Lord Jesus teach His disciples about God given authority?

Matt. 20:20-28, Mk. 10:42-45).

c. How was their God given authority to be different than the unrighteous

authority of the rulers of the Gentiles?

d. Why did Jesus come? – Matt. 20:28

4. Jesus also illustrated this truth in John 13 when He washed His disciples dirty

feet. - John 13:2-5, 12-17

5. Believers, are to model this kind of leadership and authority in our sphere of

influence.

**C. Are you in a place of God of God given leadership and authority over others?**

a. Husband c. Leadership in a local church

b. Parents d. Employer / Supervisor

**D. Practical Action / Application Step**

Take a few moments to consider and answer the following questions on your own,

or with someone you are in relationship with. (spouse, mentor, etc.)

1. In what areas has God entrusted me (us) with Real God given authority and

placed me (us) in a position of leadership?

2. Is there any way in which I am being tempted to usurp God given authority?

(For example, a wife controlling her husband, a grandparent interfering in

their children or grandchildren’s lives which causes conflict and confusion?

Taking the lead in an area of leadership that does not belong to me?)

3. What is there about my leadership that is relational, and blesses those I’m in

relationship with?

4. Who are godly leaders in your life who have blessed you and others with real,

righteous, and relational leadership?

5. How am I leading as a representative of Jesus Christ? What can I do to improve?

**III. EXAMPLES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF UNRIGHTEOUS (Ungodly)**

**AUTHORITY (LEADERSHIP) Contrasted with Godly Leadership**

**A. Eli vs. Samuel**

1. Eli was Israel’s high priest for years. What kind of a leader was he?

a. He was **a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leader** who failed to lead righteously. What did his sons,

who were priests, do? 1 Sam. 2:13-16, 22-24

Three characteristics you will usually find when authority is used wrongly,

are manipulation, intimidation, and domination.

b. These men used their place of spiritual authority to severely spiritually

abuse God’s people. How did this spiritual abuse affect people? - 1 Sam. 2:17

c. What did God tell young Samuel He would do to Eli’s household “because

his sons made themselves vile and he did not restrain them”? (1 Sam 3:13)

d. Eli was in a position, **to stop this ungodly use of spiritual authority,**

however, he **only rebuked** his sons instead of stopping their abuse. They didn’t

listen and God had to bring judgment on them and on Eli. (1 Sam. 2:27-34).

2. God told Eli, “I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to

what is in my heart and in my mind.” – (1 Sam. 2:35)

a. Samuel was one of those spiritual leaders.

b. His spiritual leadership was **real** (from God)**, righteous** (he did what was right

in God’s eyes) **and relational.**

c. What were some of his character qualities as a leader?

1) He was sensitive to hear and obey God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam. 3)

2) He was a leader with godly conviction and lovingly confronted \_\_\_\_\_\_ when

he needed to. (1 Sam. 8:10-18, 1 Sam 12, 13:1-14, 15:1-29)

3) He loved people, prayed for the Israelites, even when they rejected his

leadership, and grieved over leaders who made sinful choices and were

disqualified from leadership.

**B. King Saul vs. King David**

1. Eventually the nation of Israel rejected the godly leadership of Samuel.

2. Who did God give to them to be their king?

a. Saul looked good on the outside but lacked character on the inside.

b. Samuel anointed him as king and the Holy Spirit came upon him, and “God

gave him another heart”. (1 Sam. 10:9)

c. In 1 Sam. 11, he led the nation in a major victory over the Philistines, and he

gave God the glory (v.13).

d. What did Samuel warn king Saul and the Israelites not to do? – 1 Sam. 12

3. Saul had been given **real leadership** (authority) from God, however he had to

guard his own heart and make sure **he led God’s people righteously.**

4. What happened to King Saul? - 1 Sam. 13

a. What did Samuel tell King Saul? v. 13-14

5. Saul’s leadership became **increasingly abusive and destructive of relationships.**

a. How? – (See 1 Sam. 14)

b. He commanded his fatigued army not to eat anything. Saul’s son was unaware

of this command. He found and ate honey and was strengthened.

c. What did Saul say when he found out his own son had disobeyed his orders?

(1 Sam. 14:39,44)

d. Because his soldiers were not allowed to eat, when they defeated the Philistines

they ate the raw meat and blood of animals taken captive. (1 Sam. 14:31-34)

6. In 1 Sam. 15 we read of further rebellion on Saul’s part, and of Samuel telling him

God had rejected him from being king, and God would raise up a new king.

7. In 1 Sam. 16 young David is privately anointed to be the king of Israel. The

Holy Spirit came upon David from that day on but v.14 says “the Spirit of

the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing (oppressing) spirit (demon) from

the LORD troubled him.”

a. When we study the life and leadership of King Saul, we see 3 negative

characteristics of his leadership **are manipulation, intimidation, and**

**domination.** We never find these 3 characteristics in righteous leadership.

b. Saul used his authority to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people instead of blessing others.

c. Personal Application Question – Does our leadership bless or oppress others?

8. What was King David’s God given leadership like?

a. Throughout most of his life he demonstrated righteous and godly leadership.

b. What did God say about David? Acts 13:22

c. What experiences prepared David to one day lead the nation of Israel?

1) He was a **shepherd** who cared for his father’s sheep.

2) He became the **servant of abusive King Saul** and conducted himself wisely.

What happened as a result of David’s godly example and wise leadership?

1 Sam. 18:13-16

Godly righteous servant leadership and authority wins the hearts of people.

Many people long for righteous leadership.

1 Sam. 18:29b says, “David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul,

so that his name became highly esteemed.”

**3)** He became **a fugitive from Saul.** However, during those years God gave him

a noble group of mighty men who later became the core of his army and

government when he came to power.

They were the kind of men that David describes as he wrote Ps. 101 where he

describes the people who would make up his cabinet and leadership team.

Cmp. Ps. 101:2-7

d. God eventually elevated David to be Israel’s king for 40 years. Except for a

brief period of time when David was backslidden and used his authority in a

very wrong and abusive way, he was a good leader.  **Cmp. Ps. 78:70-72**

**C. Diotrephes vs. the Apostle John – 3 Jn. 9-11**

1. Who was Diotrephes?

2. What do you notice about his leadership? 3 Jn. v. 9-10

a. He “loves to have the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” among believers – domination

b. He verbally accused and abused. – v.10 – intimidation

c. He did not receive the brethren and would excommunicate anyone who

disagreed with him. – manipulation

3. What commands are given to believers in Christ in v.11?