

Submit and Be Comfortable – 3-23-15

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. (Hebrews 13:17)

Ever since Adam thought he knew better than God we have trouble obeying those the Lord placed over us.

Why can't I make up my own mind? Why should I listen to him or her? Isn't my way just as good? So what's wrong with that? We excuse our disobedience. It doesn't seem that God finds these excuses have wings; they won't fly; we'll be in trouble.

There was a time when God told King Saul to destroy the Amalekites; all of them, even all their livestock. He did; up to a point, for he saved the best of the livestock and told Samuel he would offer them to God. Sounds pretty good. Didn't fly; crashed and burned. "Rebellion," said Samuel, "is as the sin of witchcraft...God will take the kingdom away from you."

There is no one in this wide world that is not under authority, who must not submit. The president must submit to the Constitution; church members to elders; children to parents; students to teachers; wives to husbands; husbands to police; workers to their bosses; CEO's to the board of directors; the board of directors to shareholders.

Submit, as our Latin students know, means to place yourself under. We do that often: under our car roof, under our seat belt, under our home roof, under an umbrella, under our blankets at night. Moving under these things brings us safety and comfort.

It's also true that coming under authority brings safety and comfort. It's very comforting to know that you don't have to give an account to God for just doing as you are told. Those who told you will give an account; isn't that what our verse says? You won't have to explain your actions to God; the one you submit to will. Submission is liberating.