

Governing Authorities

We should be subject to the governing authorities (civil), but nowhere in all the New Testament is there any hint or instruction to them on how to be a ruler, since God has given the world to the unbeliever to rule, rather than to us to rule. According to the New Testament, it would appear that God does not intend that we be rulers in this age in the world. 2 Tim 2:2-7 is so clear and precise, as is 1 Pet 2:13-15.

Rulers within the church have no involvement with the secular rulers, except for certain subjection in every place where the witness resides (1 Pet 2:12-15).

In Rom 13 it is speaking of the *rulers* in the Body of Messiah, the Church, as the *governing authorities*. But the rulers in Yehudah (Heb 13:17) did not honor their secular ruler (Rom 13:7) by paying taxes, by paying tithes shared abroad in each tribe, so that the name of our Master is not held up to public shame (Heb 6:4-6).

Elders are the authorities in the edah in a township or locality as they regularly meet together, lest they have no authority that is from God. The brothers and sisters of their community are to be subject to them. Mt 18:18-20 is how they maintain their authority from our Master (Mt 28:18).

One essential quality of an elder in Tit 1:8 is self-control. The lawless elder can never enforce the law, neither can the rebellious one bring about submission. The elders must *first* be self-controlled, which is the fruit of the tree (Mt 7:15-20) and the Spirit (Gal 5:23).

How prevalent among men is the weak and puny will as they try to make it on their own strength (1 Pet 4:11)? The lack of self-restraint is prevalent today among all men except those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit, and in the appointment of elders only the specially disciplined are chosen.

Since the elders are set up in order to take care of the sheep, the edah, they themselves must first know how to obey and be under control that they be examples to

all others. One like Diotrefes (3 Jn 1:9) would never be ordained by the Holy Spirit. He must have striven for the appointment, wanting to be first, most admired and recognized. But being the most looked-to in authority in the Edah in a locality, one must be the most self-controlled and the most loving and kind and patient one (Jn 14:21).

1 Tim 3:4 is another essential quality of an elder. He must manage his own household well, especially his children. The children must be well trained and disciplined, in submission to authority, respectful in every way. So exercising proper authority in his family, he would not be disqualified to be chosen to be an elder, provided also he was gifted in that way, meeting the other requirements. He would not be self-conceited, for then he would become proud when given authority, but he must be like-minded with Messiah (Phil 2:5) when He was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt 28:18).

An elder would not be power-conscious, since it would disqualify him to be hungry for power or conscious of his own authority, which in this case would only be a clout upon that head where the diadem should stand. He would not be fit to be an elder, overseer, deacon, or even a believer, since it is Satan's sin. A power-hungry, power-conscious one who is threatened cannot manage the affairs of the community. Only small people are proud. God keeps them that way, since He opposes them. They cannot strive for honor and glory so as to be entrusted with the oversight of His flock. So also, a novice, a recent believer, cannot be chosen lest he become proud, puffed up, and fall into the condemnation of the evil one.

Tit 2:15 — As Paul exhorted Titus, the condition for apostolic workers as delegated authorities in the work is specified as, "Speak these things, exhort and rebuke with all authority, and let no man despise you..." That is, if he was ministering with all the authority of our Master, no man would despise him due to his proper use of it, and no one can misuse Messiah's authority, for when he is not representing Him, He withdraws His authority from him, and it is his own clout he functions by — "the clout

upon the head where late the diadem stood.” Whoever is conscious of his own authority is not wearing Messiah’s diadem, but his own clout.

For an elder or anyone looked up to as a leading shepherd (Heb 13:17), in order not to be despised, he must not live loosely, without self-control, or he will not be able to keep himself from being despised. To have respect from others takes self-discipline and the restraint of the Holy Spirit — that is, to be a representation, an ambassador or envoy of Yahshua and His authority (Mt 28:18-20).

An elder or worker or apostle is not a mis-representative but a re-presentative of our Master and His authority given to him by the Father. And He gives it to whom He chooses to entrust it to. Younger apostolic workers (sent ones) with delegated authority are not to let themselves be despised either by their looseness or because of their youth (Tit 2:1-8; 1 Tim 4:12; Tit 3:9-11; 1:5-11,16; 2:1-3 (again); 3:1-7).

Can you imagine what was going on in the last part of the first century, about 65 AD, 35 years before Rev 2 and 3 were written? Timothy and Titus were both younger apostolic workers serving our Master through Paul’s oversight as an apostle, sent ones to the flocks and to establish communities along with Paul, to appoint elders in every place (Tit 1:4-5). Some apostolic workers forsook Paul (2 Tim 4:9-16; 1 Tim 4:12-16).

As soon as a leader of any sort who leads the flock (an apostle) becomes too common, he is dropped from the work. His usefulness is gone, and his authority is lost. It is necessary that true authority is maintained, and that it doesn’t become a clout, as when true love vanished, the lampstand was removed, and the mutated “killer bee” was received into the hive and became the queen bee. Then the bloodbaths began — killer popes holding the unity of the Church by large-scale murder. Every pope is an accomplice.

To represent authority is to represent our Master as He represented His Father. Authority is manifested in being set apart, not in commonness. To be in this position is to be an example to all. Self-control is essential for any leader (1 Cor 7:5).

All the popes are accomplices to the first killer bee queen, and will not be satisfied or come to rest until they accomplish what the first killer bee pope started in his swarm — the Inquisition (1 Jn 2:27; Acts 20:28; 1 Jn 4:2-3).