



Following the Leader & Leading the Follower

**The New Testament is full of commands to
obey and submit to authority.**

**However, there is probably more teaching
about how to be in authority.**

Obey Your Leaders

- Obey and be helpful to those who are charged with leading you.
 - Hebrews 13:17 *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."*
- I have found 28 passages in the New Testament that tell us to obey, submit or subject ourselves to: God, Son, Jesus, The Father, Truth, Righteousness, Gospel, Law of God, Government, the Laborers ministering to the saints, Leaders, Husbands, Parents, Masters, Older People, and Human Institutions to name them.

Serve Those Who Follow You

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- **Who reminds the leaders how they should lead?**
 - The scriptures and our friends!
 - Pro 27:17 "*Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.*"
 - **All Leaders must understand they have to give an account of their stewardship, even if it is nothing more than your abilities, because Christ is the head over all rule and authority.**
 - Col 2:10 "*and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;*"

Don't Lord Over, Serve

- *Matthew 20:25-28 'But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."'*
- *1 Peter 5:2-3 'shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.'*

Who Is A Leader?



- Someone might be a leader because of the responsibility placed upon them in a job, because they have children, or maybe they are teaching someone else.
- Others may be leaders because they have a gift to lead.
 - Romans 12:8 “... *he who leads, with diligence; ...*”
- Look at these examples:
 - Galatians 2:9 “*and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.*”
 - Rev 2:20 “*‘But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.’*”

People With Authority

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- **When I set out to find all the passages that tell people how to lead, I found myself continually extending the list of people to look at. Here are the ones I looked up:**
 - **Apostle, Husband, Master, Ruler, Elder, Leader, Father, Overseer, Steward, Deacon, Evangelist, Men, Women, Christian, Prophet.**
 - **I don't know if the list is complete, but there are directions given to all of these people about what God holds them responsible for and how they should conduct themselves.**
 - **The scope of authority for each of these groups is different and some are under others in a hierarchy of authority, however some common principles apply for anyone with authority over anything.**

Common Principles of Leadership

- **Not to Lord over, but to Serve! ~ Matt 20:28**
- **Be diligent ~ Rom 12:8**
- **To give of ourselves for others ~ 1Jn 3:16**
- **Be Just and Fair, Knowing we have a master in Heaven ~ Col 4:1**
- **Be understanding ~ 1Pet 3:7**
- **Be Holy and without dissension ~ 1Tim 2:8**
- **Be an example to others ~ 1Tim 4:12**
- **Gentle, patient and humble ~ 2Tim 2:24**
- **Be trustworthy ~ 1Cor 4:2**