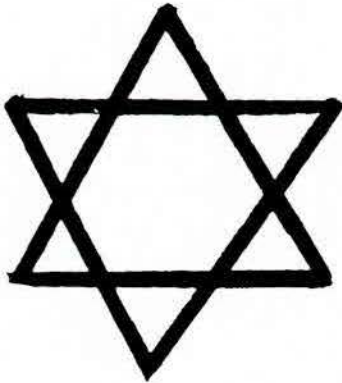




OCTOBER 1985

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

(Or, who's in charge of what and why?)



You will recognize this symbol as the star of David (Mogen David). It is also a symbol in this age for two types of AUTHORITY found in the church.

The star consists of two pyramids: one  symbolizes NATURAL AUTHORITY being forced from top to bottom. The other  symbolizes SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY submitted from bottom up.

The teachings called SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY, SHEPHERDING, SUBJECTION and COVERING are NOT complete. They mix up SPIRITUAL and TEMPORAL AUTHORITY. The purpose of this MONARCH is to study the Bible so that we will be COVERED by true SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY, not TEMPORAL LEADERS.

"Woe to the rebellious children sayeth the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin." (Isaiah 30:1)

(Getting all your ducks in order.)
SEE BOTH SIDES



A study of the Greek word HUPOTASSO - (to set in array under, subject, submit, reveals that there are TWO SEPARATE types of chains of command that are taught in the Bible. There is what we will call a

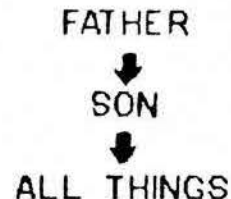
NORMAL chain of command (C of C) and also a SPIRITUAL C of C. The NORMAL C of C is found in any type of social structure (army, business, etc.) where one person or group of persons is voted in as head or assumes that position. All orders project down from this head to subordinates who then carry out actions.

Personally, I learned a lot about that type of C of C while I served on a U.S. submarine during the Korean War. The Admiral spoke, the Captain parroted and I jumped.

Many preachers mistakenly teach that churches should work like the navy. But, the Bible does not agree in the matter of SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY (though it does agree in matters of TEMPORAL AUTHORITY).

Yes, the Bible does make reference many times to the normal navy (army) type of chain of command. But the normal natural chain does NOT include the SPIRITUAL inter-relationships of church members.

Here's the way the NORMAL C of C works.



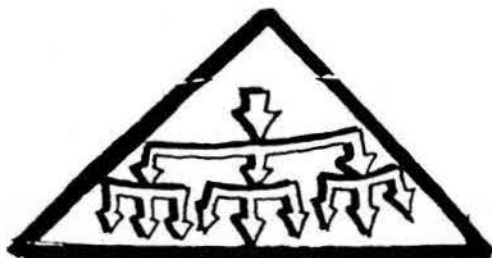
Notice the direction of the arrows. The commands project downward from the top head, often through layers of authority to the lowest subordinate level.

"For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him" (I Cor. 15:27).

So the Father is in charge and tells the Son what to do. The Son in turn is in charge of all things and exercises command over all things.

So the relationship between GOD the FATHER and GOD the SON, and us - works somewhat like it worked from the Admiral to the Captain to me. That's NORMAL.

NORMAL CHAIN OF COMMAND



Another example of the NORMAL chain of command can be found in Romans 8:20.

We find that the body is subject to vanity, not willingly, but it is subject.

VANITY



BODY

"For the creature (physical body) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope" (Romans 8:20).

That means that vanity controls our decisions in relation to our body. If you don't believe that then explain our drug stores, department stores and 99% of the advertising on T.V. They all appeal to our vanity concerning our bodies.

It may be amusing to note that the scripture said, "not willingly." Our bodies really are "not willing" to be made subject to vanity, but they are anyway.

And that reminds me that I also was not always "willing" to be subject to my own naval normal C of C, but I was subject anyway - so I did what I was told "not willingly." Often with groans, grumps and gripes.

It is interesting to find in I Cor. 14:32 that the spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. Therefore we should learn to control our spirit and be mature in how we allow it to be manifested.

PROPHET



SPIRIT OF THE PROPHET

"For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets

are subject to the prophets" (I Cor. 14:31-32).

At my present level of maturity I have a very difficult time walking with Christians who say, "I couldn't help it. The spirit made me do it." The scripture does not agree.

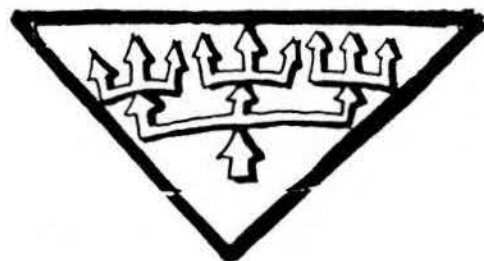
These are only a few of the examples of the NORMAL chain of command found in the scriptures. You can see that in each instance the one above has the authority and/or power to rule over the one below.

We have no argument with that NORMAL chain of command. In the NATURAL realm the church must have it. The elders must have the power to determine a temporal matter such as - the meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. There would be chaos without the NORMAL NATURAL chain of command for the TEMPORAL realm of the church.

The trouble is that many pastors, elders and teachers have erroneously applied these scriptures to SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY and things are not working because they can't see the difference.

We will now look into the SPIRITUAL chain of command which has been very much NEGLECTED today. If this chain was realized and taught correctly perhaps both chains would work correctly. In this chain AUTHORITY IS GRANTED FROM BOTTOM TO TOP. This is a very important concept to see.

SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF COMMAND



Notice the direction of the arrows.

The subordinate member has the authority and chooses to submit that authority to the next level above.

ELDER



YOUNGER

In I Peter 5:5 Peter tells the younger men that they are to SUBMIT THEMSELVES to the elder. Do you see the difference?

"Likewise, ye younger, SUBMIT your-

selves unto the elder" (I Peter 5:5).

Did that say for the elders to tell the youngers what to do? No, it did not. It told the youngers to ask the elders, "What do you want me to do?" And that is as different as black and white.



The thing that makes an elder an elder is the younger.

I can NOT find any time ever in the Bible where the elders are told to put (or keep) the younger in subjection. Can you?

Now, that is a lot different than we have been taught in many of our churches.

The command to SUBMIT was not (and never is) given to the elders. The command to SUBMIT was given to the younger.

So we who are at the bottom of the stack have the power to SUBMIT to the authority of others. Other people are not given the power to exercise SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY over us (though others have received the right to exercise TEMPORAL AUTHORITY).

In Romans 13:1 we find that all (renewed 12:2) souls are told to SUBJECT themselves to the higher powers - the powers ordained of GOD.

POWER OF GOD



RENEWED MIND

"Let every soul (renewed mind 12:2) be SUBJECT unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Romans 13:1).

It did NOT tell the higher powers (elders, pastors, bishops, deacons) to SUBJECT all the souls to their authority and rule. No, it did not. It told the souls to SUBJECT themselves to the higher authority. This is the pattern of SUBMISSION that is given throughout all the scriptures regarding inner church relationships and

also inner family relationships.

Ephesians 5:22 does not tell the husband to SUBMIT his wife to his AUTHORITY, as many pastors are erroneously teaching.

"Wives, SUBMIT yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22).

Was the command to the husband? No, it was to the wife.

HUSBAND



WIFE

The pattern continues in Colossians. Wives were told to SUBMIT themselves, husbands were NOT told to SUBJECT their wives.

"Wives, SUBMIT yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love (agape) your wives and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:18-19).

Years of marriage counselling have shown me that every marriage that is on the rocks can be traced directly to not walking in the advice of these two verses.

Each partner must do their part. If one partner stops, the split comes and the other partner stops.

"Teach the young women ... to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:5).

Every woman I have ever counselled or interviewed has said that they would be blissfully happy to be obedient to a husband who truly LOVED them and who was not BITTER against them (Col. 3:19).

I cannot find a single Bible reference that tells a pastor or a husband to force someone to follow them.

Ministers are NOT told to SUBJECT and COVER their flock.

"I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that is the first-fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth" (I Cor. 16:15-16).

Here we find that the family of Stephanas has submitted themselves to the ministry. Paul's command then is to the brethren that they should submit themselves to the family of Stephanas. Never does it tell Stephanas to put the brethren

under subjection. THE AUTHORITY IS ALWAYS WITH THE SUBORDINATE LAYER IN GOD'S SUPERNATURAL PYRAMID. GOD did not force Stephanas into the ministry. Stephanas chose to submit himself to it. He set himself under it and made it paramount in his life.

In Ephesians 5:22-25 we see that the church makes CHRIST the head because he loved us and gave Himself for us. It does NOT say that CHRIST made Himself the head of the church. In like manner wives are to make their husbands their heads because of the husband's love and devotion to them. It does NOT say that husbands are to make themselves the head of the wife. Again the younger makes the elder his head because he sees a devotion to GOD on the part of the elder. He sees one with more experience than he has himself. It does not say that elders are to make themselves the head of the younger.

"SUBMITTING yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, SUBMIT yourselves unto your OWN husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as CHRIST is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is SUBJECT unto Christ, so let the wives be to their OWN husbands, in every thing" (Eph. 5:21-24).

Guard yourself and your loved ones against the erroneous teaching that is making its way through far too many churches now-a-days, namely that: when a (believer) woman discovers that her husband is not going to become a spiritually sensitive person - she is to SUBMIT to a pastor or elder in her church who is spiritually sensitive.

That erroneous teaching has caused many family breakups, recently, according to what I hear in marriage counseling sessions.

The scripture said, "OWN husband" twice, to avoid that error.

Many who teach SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY erroneously say, that since the church leadership (pastors, elders, etc.) have the AUTHORITY over the lives of the congregation - they also have the RESPONSIBILITY to see to it that everything works out right.

For instance, a prophecy was given by an elder that a subordinate member was to purchase a car and accept a job. The car

was purchased and the job was worked. At the end of the day the uncoordinated and ignorant subordinate totally wrecked the car. The church felt the RESPONSIBILITY to replace the car in order to fulfill the prophecy. The fourth day the subordinate was driving his THIRD NEW (used) car because the story repeated again. The church was also looking for a way OUT of their erroneous interpretation of scripture. This is an actual true case I personally know of.

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

In this relationship the final RESPONSIBILITY is with the younger. Elders are NOT taught in the scripture to give commands, only advice. If an elder tells you what to do and you do it, you cannot transfer the RESPONSIBILITY of that act to your elder.



When the top level has the AUTHORITY to project orders to the subordinate level as in the NATURAL C of C, then the top level must also accept the RESPONSIBILITY for the acts of their subordinates.

But, when the subordinate lower level has the SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY to SUBJECT themselves to the advice of their leaders (pastors, elders, etc.) they cannot transfer the RESPONSIBILITY for the acts they commit. In SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY, the RESPONSIBILITY remains with the SUBORDINATE, so when you SUBMIT or SUBJECT yourself to someone else, you had better be right. If your pastor or your husband is a fool - then TEMPORAL or SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY is NOT for you. See Ananias, Sapphira and Peter in Acts 5:1-11 and also Nabal, Abigail and David in I Sam. 25:1-44.

This ministry does not exist without your prayers and gifts.