Respect for Authority
2 Pet. 2:10

Introduction:
A. Disrespect for authority is at the root of all kinds of ungodliness.
   1. False teaching (v. 1).
   2. Presumption and self-will (v. 10).
   3. Unbridled lust and pleasure (v. 12-14; 18-19).
   5. Makes one a menace to himself, society and the church.
B. We shall notice four vital points about respecting authority:

Discussion:
I. Respect for Authority Is Essential to the Christian Life.
A. Christian to pray for all in authority (1 Tim. 2:2).
B. Christian to respect authority in the three basic God-ordained institutions:
   1. The Home (1 Tim. 3:5).
   3. The Church (1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17, 24; Tit. 2:15).

II. Respect for Authority Is Ultimately Respect for God.
A. God is the source of all legitimate authority. (Rom. 13:1,2; John 19:10,11).
B. All earthly authority subject to Higher Authority.
   1. Civil powers subject to God.
   2. Head of woman subject Christ. (1 Cor. 11:3).
   3. Fathers over children subject to the Lord (Eph. 6:4).
   4. Elders over flock subject to Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).
   5. All earthly authority secondary to Higher authority (Acts 5:29).

III. Respect for Authority Establishes and Maintains Our Relationship to Christ.
A. Must be recognize Jesus as “Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)
   3. Head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22).
B. Must submit to authority in obeying gospel. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16).
   1. Baptized into Christ and His church (Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).
   2. All spiritual blessings in Christ. (Eph. 1:3).
C. Must submit to scriptural authority in worship and service directed to God.
   1. To do otherwise to be “presumptuous” (Text)
      a. To presume is “to venture without authority or permission; dare”¹
         (1) Makes worship vain (cf. Matt. 15:9)
         (2) Brings God’s judgment (Matt. 7:21; Lev. 10:1-2).
      b. Three ways to know: Command, Example, Necessary inference.
   2. Can be morally right, but religiously wrong. (Matt. 15:1-3)

IV. Respect for Authority Usually Begins at Home.
A. Children are not born with respect, must learn it.
   1. By teaching, discipline and example.
   2. Need to see it in lives of parents.
B. Disrespect at home leads to bigger problems. (Cf. 1 Sam 3:10-14).

Conclusion:
A. Let us learn to respect all legitimate authority, especially Divine Authority.
B. Why not submit, today by obeying the gospel of Christ?

¹ American Heritage Dictionary.