



26 Jan – 1 Feb, 2020

Authority, part 1

**‘But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’
and not do the things which I say?’ Luke 6:46**

Christ the Authority

- † ***‘And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth’ Mt 28:18***
- † ***‘Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him’ Mk 1:27***

Obedience to God has the shape of the Cross and is manifested through obedience to subordinate authorities

- † ***‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s’ Mk 12:17b***
- † **We need to obey the instructions given to us at work, in the home, at church, at school and by the government**
- † **We need to humble ourselves and to refrain from argument and judgment and to fulfill the instructions cheerfully (Lk 6:46-49)**
- † **An obedient heart does not seek to please itself, nor does it yearn to get the upper hand. It is not concerned with winning arguments or coming out looking mightier or cleverer**
- † **Thus obedience is not passiveness but an active humble action**

Obedience to Christ through obedience to the family members

- † **Honoring our parents (Ex 20:12)**
- † **Husband and wife are to be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21-33)**

Honoring our parents is a commandment of love

- † **It is the only commandment that has a promise (Eph 6:1-3)**
- † ***‘Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you’ Exo 20:12***

- † This is the first Commandment in the list of the six Commandments that speak about our relationships with other people

Why should we honor our parents?

- † The Bible confirms that there is a relationship between honoring parents and honoring God (*Mal 1:6; Mt 15:1-9; Eph 6:1-3*)

God used the language of parenting about Himself

- † In the Old Testament, the concept that God was the Father of the nation of Israel was well known (*Dt 1:31; 8:5; Jer 31:9; Is 64:8*)
- † Jesus Christ also uses strongly maternal language about Himself (*Mt 23:37-39*)
- † Isaiah also compared God's love to that of a mother (*Is 49:15*)

Christ personally honored His earthly parents and His Heavenly Father

- † In Luke 2:51, we read how, after the young Jesus Christ had stayed behind in the Temple, He was reunited with His parents and returned with them to Nazareth and *'was obedient to them'*
- † Christ's first miracle was in obedience to His mother (*Joh 2:1-11*)
- † While dying on the Cross, Jesus took care of entrusting His mother to John so that He would take care of her (*Jn 19:26-27*)
- † Jesus Christ honored God the Father in every detail of His life, in every word He said and even on the Cross (*Jn 16:28; 6:38; 14:31; 5:19; 1:1; 10:30; 6:44; 14:28; 8:49; 15:10; Mt 26:39*)

Obedience between husband and wife out of reverence for Christ

- † Husband and wife are no longer two independent individuals, but one flesh. No marriage can work if the two do not sacrifice their own wills in loving obedience
- † Husband and wife are a typical example of the intimate union between Christ Who is the bridegroom and His bride who is the Church
- † The wife is to cooperate with her husband, who is the head of the family (*Eph 5:22-24, 1 Tim 2:12*)
- † The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church (*Eph 5:23,25*)
- † Marriage, like monasticism, is a calling to a union with God

The pious or holy disobedience

- † Every authority in the absence of God will be corrupt. As Christ's ambassadors, we obey it in everything except sin
- † Even children are to correct their parents in a holy and loving way where there is sin

Bibliography

1. The Ladder of Divine Ascent, by John Climacus, (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'I delight to do Your will, O my God' Psalm 40:8a

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † Christ, the Authority, obeyed and honored His earthly parents and His Heavenly Father

My reaction

- † Am I honoring my parents the way Christ did?
- † Is my relationship with my spouse as the relationship between Christ and His Church?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison

11. to the unity of the Christians

12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity

13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management

14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them

15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights

16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Roman Catholic Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك ليأت ملكوتك ليتكُن مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا كما نحن نغفر لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا ولا ندخلنا في التجارب لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان نؤمن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق مساوي للأب في الجوهر الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر، ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس، ومن مريم العذراء وصار إنساناً وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي تألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الله الأب أيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي المنبثق من الأب والإبن، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن يُسجد له ويُمجد الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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