

*Under God*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

We live in a time when very few people understand what it means to live “under” someone. The slogan “Question authority” has become a rallying cry for many. Of course, we are not to be robotic in our submission, following blindly in whatever we do; however, bona fide leadership is something we should enjoy and not challenge.

Today, even among Christians, many have started to follow after that which is right in their own eyes. This practice promotes spiritual “lone rangers”—people who are guided by natural preference and subjective experiences. “I go to church where and when I feel like going,” they say.

As believers, each one of us is called to assemble ourselves together, and more so as we see the day of Christ’s return approaching. That is the instruction of Hebrews 10:25, and it means that each believer belongs in a place where he

can serve under God.

As this booklet will show, living under God is something that brings great security to our lives. When we as spouses, children, employees, and church members purpose to submit to godly leadership, the result is life, and life more abundant.

## *Chapter One*

# AUTHORITY AND THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

“And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship” (Acts 8:25-27).

Philip encountered a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This particular eunuch, who had the charge of all the queen’s treasure, was headed to Jerusalem to worship.

Where was the eunuch, in terms of his position of authority? He was *under* Candace the queen. He served under her authority in Ethiopia's table of organization.

In order for the Lord to do something, somebody has to be under somebody else. In the Ethiopian government, the eunuch was under Candace. As believers, we are under Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was under the authority of God the Father. What's more, the Holy Spirit came under the authority of the Son, and the believer is under the authority of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. He is *under*.

It is an amazing thing, that little word "under." If I am under someone and I am in the right place, I am being charged with the simplicity of a table of *content*. Certainly, I submit in a table of organization, and in that I find great content in specifics for my life. Indeed, one of the most important things in all the world is to understand that little word "under."

### *The Husband and the Home*

What would have happened if the Holy Spirit had not placed that little word "under" in the plan for our lives? Let me illustrate it.

Two people get married, and the husband



wants his marriage to be scriptural. Therefore, it is very important for us to recognize that as a godly husband, there are certain things he has to be to this woman.

Consider it: This woman has probably been used to living with her father, so her husband has to give this woman the same love that her father gave her. She has a mother, and he needs to give her the same identical love that her mother gave her, which she had all those years.

There is more. Suppose the woman this man is marrying has a brother. He takes her away from the brother, so he needs to supply her with the same love that she would have gotten from her brother. She also has a sister, and he has to give this woman the same love the sister had for her.

You say, "But he didn't marry her sister!"

No, but he is obligated to give her the love that her sister gave her. That is the cost of becoming married to her.

This man's wife has special friends, so this husband, in his loving meekness, in his graciousness, gives her the same love that her friends gave her.

You say, "That doesn't make sense to me."

It doesn't matter whether you think it makes

sense or not. We all need to know the Bible, and we have to study some deep things, such as the scenario we have here.

This is the great responsibility of a husband toward his wife. It is a beautiful thing, because the love between a husband and wife is magnified. That love keeps growing more and more mature, but this only happens if it happens under the right kind of authority, as defined in the Bible.

*Chapter Two*

GODLY SUBMISSION  
BREEDS SECURITY

“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

“To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:4-5).

Most likely, you have seen a picture of yourself when you were a little kid, and you would say, “Boy, I was so cute back then! I don’t even recognize me. Oh, man, I was so cute.”

Have you ever said that about yourself? Of course, you have. Maybe you wouldn’t say it publicly. And, if you haven’t said it, somebody else probably has said it. But you know what I mean: “Come and see. Here is a picture of when he was only three.” And you look at that picture and say, “Hmm, not bad.”

I want you to see something that is very im-

portant. We need to look at each other with God's viewpoint. A wife will be just as beautiful as her husband makes her. The key is in having the proper initiation toward her.

### *Initiation and Response*

"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.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:21-25).

There is not one verse in the Bible that says the wife has to love her husband. The husband, on the other hand, is commanded to love his wife. And as a husband is loving his wife, the wife begins to respond to his love and freely gives him back the same love he has for her. Now, in the measure that she builds up her husband by submitting to him, the more and more

security she will have in her husband.

What happens in this situation? The wife responds in a glorious way, releasing both herself and her husband. This strengthens the husband because she is submitting to the plan of God. She strengthens him, and he in turn gives her the security that she is the best thing in the world. The home becomes a wonderful and exciting place. The wife can't wait for her husband to get home, and he can't wait to get home to his wife. There is a godly passion between them. That is a beautiful thing.

### *Edification at Work*

Consider an employee who is under an employer. One day he goes to work and he says to his employer, "Can I see you just a minute?"

The employer says, "Yes."

The employee says, "I've worked for a lot of guys in my life but you are one of the nicest, most fun bosses that I've ever worked for, and I just want to thank you. That's all, sir."

What has that employee done? He has built up and edified his employer. And what has that done for the employer? It has given the employer security with his employee. Because of that security, when an important job comes up,

the employer will feel confident with this employee. He will feel secure in giving him a very risky job. That is a tremendous thing.

Even the person at the top is under authority, and if he is wise he operates with that in mind. That was true for the centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant, in Matthew 8:5-10. So, whether we are talking about a marriage, or work, or any situation where there are two or more people, God has ordained a plan that will benefit every person who is willing to submit to godly authority.

### *Chapter Three*

## THE FAMILY AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

Imagine what can happen in a home with children who hear a message like this. Together, they say to each other, "Let's make something for daddy and mommy, and let's do something just to make them happy. Let's obey them all week long and build them up and make them feel like a hundred dollars with every move we make."

As time goes on, the father and mother notice that the children are so happy. They are absolutely happy, and as they get closer together, the father and mother feel like a king and a queen. The children wait until everybody at the table is finished, then they excuse themselves. Without being told, they take the dishes into the kitchen and wash them. Then they say, "Mom and Dad, is there anything we can do for you?"

And the parents say, "You've been awfully

good children. No, there is nothing.”

“Are you sure now?”

“Well, seeing that you’re in that mode, yes.”

The children keep on doing that. They continually build up mom and dad, and that gives mom and dad security. But that is not all, because now the children also enter into a new type of security, and it is tremendous security. The mother and father have this tremendous security in their children because the children have honored them so much, even when they were not asked.

### *The Privilege of Security*

Security makes us stronger. When a child submits to his parents, just for the love of it and for the Holy Spirit and for God’s grace, it gives the parents security in relationship to him. And as the parents have security in relationship to the children, the result is stronger parents and secure children.

Now, that is the way to bring up a family.

By the way, the Bible says, “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church.” And to the wives, it says, “Submit to your own husbands” (Ephesians 5:21-30).

But beyond a command, it is a privilege to



have a marriage that is under God, under grace, and under love. It is a privilege to have a marriage that is under mercy, that is under God's order. And when you do, the people who are in authority receive tremendous strength, and the people that are honoring them receive tremendous security.

### *Order in the Assembly*

An anointed pastor and a responsive congregation make another place where security can be found. When there is obedience from the heart that is motivated by love, there is *life*—spiritual life that goes beyond anything we could ask or think.

It is no wonder that Paul declared that a husband should love his wife as Christ loved the Church (Ephesians 5:25). A healthy marital relationship includes the physical dimension of a sexual relationship. Besides bringing great enjoyment to the couple, every one of these encounters carries the potential for babies to be born.

My point is that as sure as life can spring from a healthy marriage, so does life spring from the midst of a healthy congregation that lives under the guidance of its pastor. A godly pastor hears from God and is led by the Holy

Spirit. He speaks the truth in love. He is a gracious and longsuffering leader, but also one who refuses to compromise. He communicates a vision for the lost and for reaching the world.

The members of his church can count on this pastor going by the Book because he also lives under authority. What does that do? It promotes great security, and the congregation thrives and grows as it responds to the order that is established under God.

## CONCLUSION

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165).

Living life under God brings great peace. Striving is done away with. Jealousy and envy do not affect us. God’s Word is exalted and the Holy Spirit has free course to move in our homes, our businesses, and our churches.

Christians who live under God allow the life that He has imparted to them to be drawn out. This makes an eternal difference. As His life is drawn out of His people, that life is manifested with love. God said that the world will know that we are Christians by our love—not just for the lost but for one another: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

This great love promotes vision in the local assembly. The Holy Spirit leads people to reach out to their neighborhoods, to their cities, and to their states. Some are led to go to the uttermost

parts of the earth, to places such as Africa where millions suffer from the AIDS disease, or to places such as Afghanistan where war and religious extremism has throttled hopes and dreams, or to places where communism and ungodly authoritarian government has crushed the spirits of generations of men and women.

Living under God is the only secure and safe way to move through our days on this earth. It is the only way to experience spiritual prosperity and abundant life.

*Dear Father, thank You for placing us in a plan that reveals the power of perfect love as we submit to You. Prison bars can't stop that love and the security it brings. Even ungodly authority must come under Your supreme authority. Thank You that You were willing to become as the least among men to reveal to the strongest and weakest of us the power that comes with being under God. In Jesus' name, Amen.*