



TALK IT OVER

THE ILLUSION: WHO'S THE BOSS?

BOTTOM LINE

Your attitude and responses to your human authorities reflects your attitude and response to your Father in heaven.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Who was your favorite boss? Why? Teacher? Why? Who was the authority figure with whom you had the most difficulty when you were an adolescent?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Responsibility vs. Authority](#)
A 16-minute look at the difference between responsibility and authority

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 NIV

The issue of authority is really where it all began—going all the way back to the garden of Eden. Here's the illusion: When it comes to authority, our first response is to evaluate the **what**. If someone—parents, teachers, our boss, the government, or whoever—is telling us what to do, our first reaction is to make a judgment about what's being asked or required of us. And if it doesn't meet our approval, we disregard it—without any guilt. Or we might go along with it only to avoid unpleasant consequences, not from any genuine submission to authority. But as long as we can get away with ignoring any rule or regulation we don't like, that's what we do. That this is okay with God is a huge illusion that impacts us deeply and at multiple levels. Scripture exposes the illusion. When it comes to authority, God tells us, "No, it's not about **what**; it's about **who**."

Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:2 NIV

You can't be out from underneath the human authorities He's established and under God's authority at the same time.

TALK IT OVER

Read Romans 13:1-7 aloud. What emotions and thoughts surface as you read? What particularly annoys or frustrates you?

God works through human authority, whether they believe in Him or not. Response? Can you think of any God-approved reason for rebelling against authority? If so, what must characterize your response?

ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will examine, evaluate, and work with God on my responses to my authorities by _____.

My Action Step: _____