



**Big Idea: Holiness requires submission to authority.**

**1.) LISTEN as one under authority (v. 2:15).**

- There is real spiritual authority in pastoral ministry (Hebrews 13:17)
- The pastor's authority from God resides entirely in his knowledge of and right application of God's inspired Word.
- To the extent that a pastor leads in accordance with God's revealed truth, He leads with real spiritual authority from God (1 Thes. 2:13).
- To disregard **TRUE** instruction from God's Word spoken in the Spirit's power is to disregard the very voice of God.

**2.) LIVE as one under authority (v. 3:1).**

- It is unholy to hate authority (Romans 13:1-4).
- Whenever earthly authorities conflict with God's commands, God's commands take absolute precedence (Acts 5:29).
- Holiness requires us to submit to earthly authorities in every way that does not compel us to violate the greater commands of God.
- Submission to earthly authorities is critical to sanctification because it is visible proof of our submission to God.

- Your response to **AUTHORITY** will go a long way to determining the size, scope, and significance of your life.
- Rejection of authority is the pathway to a lonely little life that exchanges the forever glory of God for the indescribably puny glory of self.
- A spirit of humble submission to God's Word makes us ready for every good work.

### 3.) **LOVE** as one under authority (v. 3:2).

- Loving as one under God's authority means loving according to God's design.
- Loving as one under authority means that a life of love is not optional (Ephesians 5:1-2).
- Verse 3 tells us "*to speak evil of no one,*" because true love submits to the best interests of others and not to selfish gain (Philippians 2:3-4).
- One of the best tests of character is how you treat people you don't have to treat well.
- Gentleness and courtesy are integral aspects of the love that God wants us to show each other and the watching world.
- In the Gospel, we receive Christ as **SAVIOR** only when we submit to His authority as **LORD**