



Hello brothers and sisters, friends and family, co-workers and associates. Welcome to the “Winds of Revolution” newsletter. This newsletter has been a long time coming and I have spent countless months in prayer asking the Yahweh to guide me in the birth of this extraordinary expose. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to challenge our thinking and prompt us to reexamine some of doctrines and teachings that we have embraced as accurate biblical truths. Many of the topics featured in this newsletter are what some may consider “hot buttons”, but as the Body of Christ continues to spin out of control, we as leaders must begin to reexamine what has caused the modern day Church to look very different from the Church we see in the Scriptures. Understand this brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire is not to divide, confuse, belittle, or harm the church, but for us all to begin to build on the foundation which Christ laid for us. Unfortunately, many have forgotten what that foundation looks like or maybe you were born into a system that never taught you accurately, but I have come to understand that one cannot teach what they do not know.

Now, to my fellow friends in ministry leadership; I greatly respect the fact that you may be an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and or Teacher. But I ask that you try to set your titles and ministry experience aside for a minute, and open up your hearts and minds to receive. As a minister birth out of an Apostolic and Prophetic bloodline, I know how difficult that may be because most of you may be products of a system that makes you think you know it all. But as I dialogue with more and more church leaders, it is evident that they do not know it all, and some are less informed than others. So I humbly ask that you study the topics written in these newsletters in there entirety before you discard the information. I understand that much of it may challenge you to the very core of your being, but I believe the same Elohim that opened my eyes and the eyes of many others to how HIS church was meant to function will also open yours. Know that many believers already suspect much is out of order, but they are slow to question things for fear of being labeled as trouble makers, rebellious, usurpers, or other labels bred out of leadership insecurities and fear. I have a strong love for the Body of Christ and this precious Gospel, but I am also troubled by what we have allowed to creep in and shape how we think and function.

I want to especially thank the brothers who continue to help me research the scriptures in order to make sure the Body of Christ walks in biblical truth. I encourage you to not get discouraged in well doing, but understand that we are up

against over 500 years of traditional church thinking and doctrine. Please understand that nothing changes overnight. We did not get to this point overnight, and it is going to take a long and steady effort to get the church back on track. Realize that many who read these newsletters will read them with the blinders of tradition. They will come into this process with preconceived notions, and will read into the Word of Yahweh whatever they want to see. Some will read these newsletters and allow themselves to be led by pride and arrogance instead of the Holy Spirit. Also know that there are those who will operate in what I have coined, "intellectual error", the ability to articulate and speak well on a subject while failing to realize that much of what they are expressing is saturated in grave error. But I thank Yahweh for the growing influence; many are beginning to ask questions and dialogue. Now that's a praise report within itself coming from this prideful hierarchal system we call biblical leadership. I have always said, "Tradition" is error that has grown old". But as I continue to tell my wife and others, what we are doing is like water that constantly and consistently drips upon concrete. It may look like it has no effect, but after a while, the concrete begins to crack, then it breaks wider, and soon the whole foundation has to be replaced. Let's pray that the original foundation comes back into place and we begin to operate from that. Understand that there will be times when we will be honored and appreciated for the knowledge and revelation we bring to the body of believers and there will be times when those same individuals will curse us. So don't get too excited about the accolades and don't get too low when you are despised. Remain steady, knowing that there has never been a REVOLUTION without someone willing to pay the price. Now lets get started, I pray you will be blessed!

Part 1, A Biblical Look at Leadership, Authority & Accountability

I was moved to discuss this first topic due to a couple of situations I encountered. A dear pastor asked me if I could come and conduct some teachings at their local meeting place. I told him I would love to be of service and I would do everything to make myself available. He then replied, "I know I have to call and get your pastor's approval." I then replied, "approval for what?" He looked confused, so I began to explain to him that no one gives me approval to preach or teach. He responded by saying, "brother, I do not want to be out of order." I replied, "brother, you are already out of order because you have adopted a mindset that was birth out of a Greco Roman system and not a biblical system." I began to tell him how I started preaching and teaching the Gospel when I became saved and came into the knowledge of Yahshua Messiah. I shared with him how I ministered in several churches well before I knew I NEEDED to be ordained or before I knew that someone in the church I attended had to ALLOW me. Yes brothers, I will discuss the origin of ordination at a latter date. I also explained to him how the Lord allowed me to partake in miracles, signs and wonders well before I knew I needed clergy permission. That pastor and I have gone on to become good friends and his life and mindset is being transformed under the power of Almighty Yahweh. Now pastors, elders and leaders, I sense your hearts racing and you are about to sign off, but I ask that you hold on a little longer, you'll be ok..

There was also another situation I encountered which led me to choose our first topic. I have meetings (church) in my home and when one of the believers found out, their response was, "your pastor allows you to do that, he must really trust you." My response was, "no one ALLOWS me to have meeting in a place where I pay the mortgage." Now I know that was not the most spiritual response, so I went on to

teach that individual about how the New Testament church operated. I realize that much of the way religious leaders believe is similar to how the religious leaders believed in the days of Yahshua. Matthew 21:23-24 states, *"Yahshua entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Yahshua replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. (NIV)*

The truth of the matter is what seems strange and out of order to most, was common in the New Testament church. If they were not meeting in homes on a continual basis and if they were not preaching, teaching and dialoging over the Word on a continual basis, they would have been out of order. Now we live in a world of invitations to preach, someone allowing us to teach, honorariums, performance, entertainment, hierarchy, rulership, obeying man, submitting to hierarchy, and so on and so forth. Here is the truth of the matter; it is all founded out of a Greco Roman mindset. It is neither the mind of Christ nor the order that He designed for His church. So I chose this first topic as the introductory issue because much of how the traditional church thinks and operates is based on an incorrect understanding of the following scriptures.

Hebrews 13:17 (1 Thessalonians 5:12, 1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrew 13:17,24)

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Hebrews 13:17 (KJV)

Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them, for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls and guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing and groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either]. (Amp)

This is probably one of the most misquoted and misunderstood scriptures taught by church leaders. I must admit, I also misunderstood this scripture early in ministry and brothers so did you, don't get proud (smile). We have now learned that when considering any passage in the Bible, it always has to be read and taught within its context and also needs to be compared with similar teachings and with any possible examples shown. This verse is not only misused by those in leadership who want to control other believers, but also by good leaders who operate out of lack of knowledge. There are many believers who feel they must adhere to teachings in which they themselves have a greater understanding. It makes me ask the question, why follow error when you know its error? It's because the church has been programmed by a Greco Roman mindset instead of the mind of Christ.

These words 'obey', 'rule', 'over', 'submit', 'subject' and other authoritative language was translated thus by the King James translators for a Bible that was designed for an earthly king, King James.

Like it or not, King James established his right to rule over others, to be king, an absolute monarch over a "Christian nation." He had the right to make laws and have them carried out by his subjects, and supposedly this king (and all the other kings of Europe at that time) attained to this "rule" from God. They established their

right to rule with authority over others; their right to be absolute monarchs over a nation, supposedly through the Bible, the word of Yahweh. Wherever possible, the translators of the Bible inserted the words rule, obey, submit, subject, etc. in order to please the king for whom they were translating the Bible, and in order to



fit their particular experience. This was the particular concept of what the "church" and ministry and authority were in their day and age.

Note: More to come on King James and William Tyndale (the one who translated the New Testament into English in 1525)

Now here is the dangerous situation that we face in our churches of today. We are still carrying out this concept of "rule" that was handed down to us from the kings of Europe; and before them from the Popes of the Roman church; and before that the Roman emperors; emperors who were the originators of these misconceptions.



In a sense we have a very well-defined concept of what "rule" is within a church. We have a very well established set of rules that we observe about "respect for authority", who can and cannot speak within our churches, who we should and should not listen to, who has the supposed right to make rules about the direction of the church, about what we should do when we gather together, who

has the "right" to teach within the church, who has the right to "minister" within the church, even about what the church is. All of these concepts (and many more) come from the tradition of the "rule" of previously established churches and denominations and ultimately earthly kings and kingdoms.

The problem with this concept is that Yahshua spoke of a different kind of kingdom and rulership when it came to positions and hierarchy. Here is how He deals with this mindset in Matthew 20: 17-21, 24-28. *Now as Yahshua was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"*

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Yahshua with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" He asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom. (NIV)

Note, her mere suggestion of such a thing immediately caused indignation and division amongst the other brethren. But look at how Yahshua handled this situation.

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Yahshua called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles "lord" it over them, and their high officials "exercise authority" over them. But not so amongst you. Instead, whoever wants to become great amongst you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)

Luke 22:24-30 states it like this: *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Yahshua said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles "lord" it over them; and those who "exercise authority" over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (NIV)*

In these passages, Yahshua describes two kingdoms. Unfortunately most churches operate out of the type of kingdom mindset Yahshua condemned.

The Greek word for "exercise authority" in Matthew is *katexousiazō*. It is a combination of two Greek words. *Kata*, which means down upon or over and *exousiazō* which means to exercise authority. The Lord also uses the Greek word *Katakuriēuo* in this passage, which means to "lord it over" others. What Yahshua is condemning in these passages are not oppressive leaders, instead He is condemning the hierarchical form of leadership that dominates the Gentile world and mindset! Yahshua is not just condemning tyrannical leaders, He is condemning the hierarchical form of leadership itself!

The hierarchical form of leadership is a leadership style that is rooted in the idea that power and authority flows from the top down. We have all heard it. Essentially, it is built upon a Roman military chain-of-command social structure. It reduces brotherly and sisterly human relationships into command-style relationships. It causes one to have to dumb down their knowledge, gifting, and function that was meant to edify and build up the church and come under a subservient military order instead of a co-servant co-laborer structure.

More on this structure in the next edition! Let's deal with Hebrews 13.

This same word that was translated 'obey' in Hebrews 13:17 was also translated agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be confident, make friend, persuade, trust & yield. It means to convince, by anal. to pacify or conciliate, to assent, or to rely. (*Strong's Concordance*) It means to allow oneself to be teachable. As leadership teaches things concerning scripture, one should listen and be persuaded to follow if what they teach is accurate and founded upon God's Word.

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words says "to persuade, to win over" or "to be persuaded, to listen to, to obey." It is not obedience by submission to authority, but allowing oneself to be persuaded."

It is also helpful to look up other words that were translated 'obey' and compare it with Hebrews 13:17.

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" Hebrews 5:9 (KJV)

In Hebrews 5:9, the word translated 'obey' means to hear under, i.e. to listen attentively; by impl. to heed or conform to a command or authority. (*Strong's Concordance*) Note the difference between this form of the word 'obey' and Hebrews 13:17. This means obedience to Yahshua Messiah. He said that if we love him, we will keep his commandments. The verse expresses the need to conform to what Jesus

commands. In contrast, Hebrews 13:17 means to be persuadable and teachable by the leadership (not hierarchical appointed leadership, but those who walk in greater maturity, wisdom, and understanding of a particular subject). It is not a call to follow anything and everything someone in leadership might want you to do or everything that is taught without questioning the one teaching!

The word 'rule' in Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24 is the Greek word *hegeomai* which simply means to "to lead," guide or go before. It carries the thought of following "those that guide you" rather than "those who rule over you." Paul said, "1 Corinthians 11:1 Follow me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah)." He did not say, "follow me because I'm in authority and "rule" over you".

Similarly, in Thessalonians 5:12, the word "over" is translated from the Greek word *proistemi*. It simply means to stand in front of, superintend, guard, and provide care for. This same word *proistemi* appears in 1 Timothy 5:17. It too is translated incorrectly in the KJV and NASB. In Acts 20:28 the Greek text says that the elders are "en" (among) the flock rather than "over" them (as the KJV puts it). In a similar scripture, 1 Timothy 3:3-4, Paul states that overseers must "rule (*proistemi*) their own houses well." This does not point to one's ability to wield power, but rather to their capacity to bear responsibility for the supervision and nurture of others. The home is where one's character is tested the most. In all of these passages, the basic thought is that of watching not bossing, superintending not dominating, facilitating not dictating and guiding rather than ruling.

There is also an error in the interpretation of the portion of this verse which refers to "giving an account for your souls." There are those who erroneously teach this to mean that the leadership, especially pastors are going to have to go before Yahweh and state a case about you, whether you listened or not, whether you did everything they asked. It is preposterous to teach that if someone doesn't obey your every desire, the leadership will have to stand before Yahweh and tell Him each and every one of these transgressions!

The bible teaches quite the contrary. It teaches that each of us must give account of ourselves to Yahweh. The leadership from your church is not going to be standing next to you when you appear before the the Almighty.

Romans 14:10-13 *"You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before Yahweh's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written:*

"As surely as I live,' says Yahweh, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to Yah.' So then, each of us will give an account of himself to Yah. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. (NIV)

Matthew 12:36-37 *"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." (NIV)*

What this is saying is that everyone in leadership is also going to have to give account to Yahweh not only for themselves personally, but how they guided those in their care. Did they protect them from predators, false prophets and teachers, wolves in sheep's clothing, etc? Did they teach them accurately or did they promote

and come into agreement with the doctrine of demons? I tell you this, I would not want to be a leader standing before the Almighty having not done these things. It also means to give an account to the accuracy of what is being taught and imparted into souls. The reason there is so much inaccurate teaching, preaching and impartation is because the ones who are teaching have made themselves “kings” and “lords” over the people and very few people, if any can correct them or speak into their lives. But James explained the danger of this:

James 3:1 NOT MANY [of you] should become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we [teachers] will be judged by a higher standard and with greater severity [than other people; thus we assume the greater accountability and the more condemnation]. (AMP)

When you study this subject correctly you will understand that scripture is not stating that a believer is to do everything a leader in the church tells him/her to do. Neither the apostles, nor Jesus ever taught this. It means we are to be teachable, to be persuadable concerning the things of Yahweh and the Truth of His Word. A church leader is not a commander, or a 'lord'. He is not God's General in the faith or God's set man of power for the hour, but is simply called to be a servant who strives to persuade others to follow the ways the Messiah.

Act 17:10-11 shows a good example in the Bereans, whom Dr. Luke wrote about. *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so (KJV).* They received the words that Paul taught; they were ready and eager; but then went and searched the scriptures to see if what Paul taught was true. They were teachable and they were persuadable of the things of Yahweh. Paul and Silas were not above being questioned and if needed, correcting. None of the Apostles were above examination and correction. This concept is only within our Greco Roman church system.

It is difficult when we attend a church or group that uses Bible verses but gives them a different meaning or slant than what was intended. When a person hears something over and over again they tend to believe it and act accordingly. It is therefore hard to see past what you were taught and what scripture is actually teaching. The reason I have grown in my knowledge of the Word is because I have learned to study scripture for myself and I look beyond what pastors have taught. I still read and study certain passages in scripture and realize I have misunderstood a certain subject. Thank be to Yahweh for brothers in the faith who helps me understand certain subjects and whom I help understand certain subjects. I think someone called it “iron sharpening iron,” not the act of one dull knife.

I pray that you are blessed by what you have read.

May Yahweh Bless you all,

Minister James Pride

Founder and Chief Editor

