

Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN

6/27/2004

Title: “Question Authority?”

Text: Daniel 6:1-28

Introduction – What do you think when you see the bumper sticker that reads, “Question Authority” ? As we continue our series on the Ten Commandments, we look at our responsibility toward the authorities that God has placed over us. Do we respect and obey them or not? We can find some answers in the story of Daniel and King Darius from the Old Testament.

I. Respect and Obey Authority

v. 1-4 – “King Darius appointed ... three administrators ... one of whom was Daniel... Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ... They (the jealous administrators) could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.”

II. Unless it Contradicts God’s Word

v. 10-11 – “Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.”

III. In Which Case, Obey God Rather than Men

v. 13 – “Then they said to the king, ‘Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.’”

IV. Then, Receive God’s Blessings

v. 20-21, 28 – “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight.” ...The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den... So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

Conclusion – God expects us to honor and obey the authorities He has placed over us unless they contradict His revealed Word. As we honor those authorities we honor God and receive His blessings.