



AUTHORITY AND OBEDIENCE

“Human society can be neither well-ordered nor prosperous unless it has some people invested with legitimate authority to preserve its institutions and to devote themselves as far as is necessary to work and care for the good of all.”¹⁵

By ‘authority’ one means the quality by virtue of which persons or institutions make laws and give orders to men and expect obedience from them.

Every human community needs an authority to govern it.¹⁶ The foundation of such authority lies in human nature. It is necessary for the unity of the state. Its role is to ensure as far as possible the common good of the society.

The authority required by the moral order derives from God: ‘Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.’¹⁷

The duty of obedience requires all to give due honor to authority and to treat those who are charged to exercise it with respect, and, insofar as it is deserved, with gratitude and good-will.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1897-1900*

¹⁵ John XXIII, *PT* 46.

¹⁶ Cf. Leo XIII, *Immortale Dei*; *Diuturnum illud*.

¹⁷ *Rom* 13:1-2; cf. *1 Pet* 2:13-17.

What Did You Learn About Authority and Obedience?

for younger saints

1. When we obey those in authority over us, who are we really obeying?
2. You know you are obeying God when
 - a. you listen to parents and others that He has placed in authority over you.
 - b. you feel good about whatever it is you are doing.
 - c. you follow what Scripture and Church teachings say.
3. Jesus is present in
 - a. the Holy Eucharist.
 - b. the priest.
 - c. Holy Scripture.
4. What do we mean when we talk about the authority of Jesus?
 - a. Jesus was the author of a great book.
 - b. Jesus rules over everything.
5. Name a place in the Bible where Jesus showed that He rules over nature.
6. Recite your memory verse for this month.

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- b. the priest.
- c. Holy Scripture.

4. What do we mean when we talk about the authority of Jesus?

- a. Jesus was the author of a great book.
- b. Jesus rules over everything.

5. Name a place in the Bible where Jesus showed that He rules over nature.

He stopped a storm, caused a fig tree to wither, healed people, used five loaves and two fish to feed 5,000 people, turned bread and wine into His Body and Blood, raised people from the dead, walked on water, changed water into wine at a wedding, etc.

6. Recite your memory verse for this month. *"Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."* 1 Samuel 3:9

What Did You Learn About Authority and Obedience?

for older saints

1. What do we mean when we talk about the authority of Jesus?
2. Name three places in the Bible where Jesus showed that He rules over nature.
3. Free will means
 - a. an offering taken during the Mass.
 - b. we can choose whether or not to obey God.
 - c. a sale on legal advice.
4. You know you are obeying God when
 - a. you listen to parents and others that He has placed in authority over you.
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5. When we obey those in authority over us, who are we really obeying?
6. Recite the Family Vocation Prayer.

What Did You Learn About Authority and Obedience?

for older saints

1. What do we mean when we talk about the authority of Jesus?

This means that Jesus has absolute control of everything that exists in the created universe.

2. Name three places in the Bible where Jesus showed that He rules over nature.

He stopped a storm, caused a fig tree to wither, healed people, used five loaves and two fish to feed 5,000 people, turned bread and wine into His Body and Blood, raised people from the dead, walked on water, changed water into wine at a wedding, etc.

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6. Recite the Family Vocation Prayer.

Oh God, we earnestly ask You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers, and sisters who will love You with their whole strength and gladly spend their entire lives to serve Your Church and to make You known and loved. Bless our families, bless our children. Choose from our homes those needed for Your work. Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us, pray for our priests and religious, obtain for us many more. Amen.