

Why Obey?

"And by this we may know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says 'I know him' but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:3-4

All people everywhere evaluate whether or not they will obey authority when they do not want to obey on the basis of perceived cost: if you believe the cost of obedience is higher than disobedience, you will disobey, and vice versa. For example, you are on an interstate highway, driving among 50 other autos in one of the inside lanes at 80 mph. You know you are violating the speed law, but feel comfortable doing it, for you reason that the Highway Patrol will not stop and ticket 50 autos. Or you are alone on the highway traveling in excess of the speed limit. You note the Highway Patrol ahead of you, and you immediately slow down. You obey because you fear the price of disobedience.

You cannot have a biblical purpose for living without believing in eternal accountability for temporal behavior. If you do not believe there is eternal accountability for temporal behavior, you will have no compelling reason to fear God. If you do not fear God you will have no compelling reason to submit to Him when you disagree.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."¹

¹ Colossians 3:23-25