

Rebellion – Part One

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king." 1 Samuel 15:23

It was not so much that King Saul did not want to follow God, nor that he refused to do what God said. Rather, he insisted on modifying God's instructions and then justifying his behavior. God would have none of it; He rejected Saul, and made David, "a man after His own heart," king in his place.

Generally, you do not consider a refusal to follow the authority of someone you do not recognize as having authority rebellion. For example, you do not fault your daughter for refusing to get into an auto with a strange man. Rather, people rebel when they refuse to follow the leadership of recognized authority. You may argue that you are not under the authority of certain people, but you cannot claim a relationship with God and say you are not under His authority.

If rebellion is resisting authority, there are many ways you can rebel without appearing that you are rebelling. For example, King Saul insisted that he was not rebelling against God. Granted, he modified God's commandment, but he said his intention was to improve the instructions God gave him. God told him to kill all, and Saul said he was going to do this, but wished to bring some back to Israel to offer as a sacrifice to God.

God does not want you to modify or improve on His commandments. What He asks of you may appear to need refining, and you may have compelling reasons for doing so, but it is this attitude that He will not tolerate.