

Capricious Authority

"If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences." Ecclesiastes 10:4

God does not promise you that the authority He will place over your life will be good. Sometimes He puts you under the authority of rash people who are capricious in their behavior. When that happens, you must avoid two things: **First, don't become the slave of authority.** You are solely the slave of God. Observe, inquire, and form opinions, but remember that you belong to Christ. **Second, don't despise your authority or rebel against the "system;" it is God-ordained.** "There is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained by God."

Wardlaw said, "The weak reed, by bending in a rough wind receives no hurt, while the sturdy oak is torn up by its roots." **When authority is brash and unreasonable, don't resist it. Keep your mouth closed and God will quiet him down.** "The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace."² Solomon continues by suggesting that a wise person maintains objectivity and observes what is happening. It is difficult to place things in perspective during such times. Wisdom sees things as they are and responds properly rather than reacting.

Maintaining power over your spirit is a higher virtue than proving that you are right. You can only do this by remembering that God placed the authority over you and will not allow him to harm you.

¹ Romans 13:1 ² Exodus 14:14