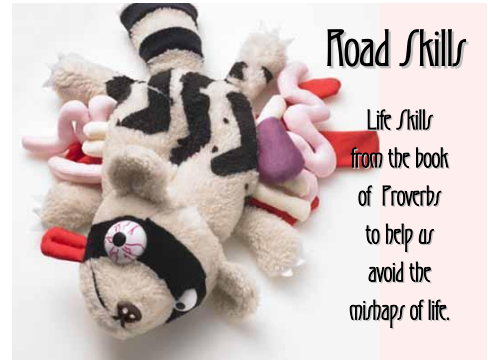


5- Road Skills – How to Relate Up

06/27/2010 - Jim Johnson

The one true source and seat of all authority is in God. He has wisely delegated that authority to human beings in an effort to organize His people. This authority structure is a gift from God and it's a great blessing when we approach it rightly. When an authority and those under authority are fulfilling their responsibilities to each other– they experience a peaceful, profitable relationship with each other.



A. How should we _____ about those in authority over us?

1. Recognize that God _____ authorities. (Rom. 13:1-2)

Every authority that exists has been divinely established by God.

2. We need to recognize that God _____ authorities. (Prov. 21:1)

The Proverb tells us that the Lord somehow directs the decisions of the king as if the king's heart is like flowing water being channeled by the hand of God

3. We need to _____ those in authority. (Prov. 24:21)

We are to fear the king (and others who represent authority.) To fear an authority is to respect their position and to respond in submission.

B. How do we _____ to those in authority over us?

A person is usually given authority because they have a job to do. Generally speaking – when I cooperate and help them succeed, they are pleased. When I resist their leadership and get in the way of their success – they are upset.

1. _____ offends them. (Prov. 10:26)

The lazy and irresponsible person doesn't get the job done on time. They don't finish it. They don't give attention to the details. They cause the boss to look bad and are therefore offensive to him.

2. _____ offends them. (Prov. 25:6)

People have a very low tolerance for arrogance - especially people in authority. They feel the need, and they have the power to bring humility to the proud, just as this prince in this proverb does.

3. _____ offends them. (Prov. 30:10)

If you really want to aggravate an authority then pick on your peers. Slander them to others. Aggravate them so that everyone is upset. The chief has a job to do and it won't get done if the Indians are squabbling with each other.

4. _____ pleases them. (Prov. 24:21)

A king wrote the words "fear the king." He knew what he wanted. A person wants to have their authority respected. Those under authority should do that in their speech, attitude and actions.

5. _____ pleases them. (Prov. 25:13)

The authority has a job to do – they need us to be aggressive and positive about helping them to get it done - without griping, without complaining without excuse.

6. _____ pleases them. (Prov. 22:11)

That authority in your life wants to know that your heart is honest and full of integrity. They want to be able to trust you. When an authority finds a person with a pure heart—they trust them like a friend.

7. _____ **pleases them.** (Prov. 23:1-2)

Solomon advises that we use self-control and restraint in relation to our authorities. Self discipline is a virtue that every authority appreciates. They are looking for people who know how to manage themselves wisely. If they can't manage themselves, how can they manage the master's business?

C. How do we _____ those in authority over us?

While God is sovereign and works sovereignly through authorities. (Prov. 21:1) There are nevertheless things that we can do to affect the way that authorities relate to us.

1. We earn his favor by acting _____ (Prov. 14:35)

One of the best ways to influence that authority in your life is to act wisely. Which means that we ought to avoid the things that offend him and do the things that please him. When we do this, he/she is inclined to bestow favor in return.

2. We cultivate his good will by being _____ (Prov. 16:13)

If you want your authority to trust you, if you want them to love you, then be completely honest with them at all times.

3. We change his attitude by giving _____. (Prov. 18:16)

Gifts make room for us at the table of authority. Gifts bring us before great men. This is not a bribe. A bribe is something that is given to induce a person to do something wrong or illegal. Proverbs condemns bribery 3 different times. (17:23; 15:27; 29:4) But a gift is something we give to encourage a person to do something right. One of the best gifts you can give is to exceed your expectations, to give to the boss more than they ask. This will take an angry authority and make him very happy and a happy authority even happier.

4. We can effectively address injustice with _____. (Prov. 25:15)

If you have a surly authority, the foolish way to respond is with anger or threats. Solomon advocates forbearance – which is the ability to be patient and restrain yourself in response to injustice. He adds the idea of speaking softly and respectfully to an angry authority in order to break down the hostilities. He reminds us that we have the power to change the hostile attitudes of an authority.

D. What _____ will it make? (Prov. 27:18)

Solomon tells us to care for our authorities as we would care for a cherished fig tree. To care for the tree would mean that we will share in the fruit. To genuinely care for the authority brings the same kinds of rewards - privileges, pay increases, promotions, and personal consideration.

POINT: When we relate up to authority with respect and submission, things generally go very, very well for us.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Think of one authority with which you have a good relationship. Which of the principles in this study do you see at work there?
2. Think of one authority with which you have a poor relationship. What can you learn from the first relationship (#1) and also from Proverbs that might help you to change the nature of this relationship?