

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 27)

THE AUTHORITY PRINCIPLE. “In serving God we must not violate authorities, because to do is a principle of Satan” – Watchman Nee. The most difficult principle to master is the authority principle. It is a dominant principle for a disciple. Perhaps it should be listed first. A disciple must learn to submit himself to his teacher. He must consciously surrender his rights to the Lord and to the person who is responsible for training Him. A disciple is to submit to his mentor the same way a wife is to submit to her husband, a child is to submit to his parents, and a slave is to submit to his master. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever there resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God” (Romans 13:1 KJV). Discipleship requires the learner to be under the authority of a teacher. Unger says, “The meaning (of a disciple) is one who professes to have learned certain principles from another and maintains them on that other’s authority.” It is curious that many who write on the subject of discipleship fail to devote a chapter, or even a section, to the importance of authority. All Christians agree that God is the established authority in the universe. It is a point of doctrine. Most Christians agree that we should be under God’s authority, and they also agree that not to do so is rebellion. The real issue has to do with those Christians who believe in God’s authority and are unwilling to place themselves under human authority in the church. The discipleship principle is this: A disciple is required to place himself under the authority of a teacher who has placed himself under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.