

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 29)

THE AUTHORITY PRINCIPLE (CONTINUED). The Apostle Paul exhorted, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). The KJV says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Paul reminded his readers of the need to yield his authority as long as he yielded to Christ. Then Paul stated the authority principle: "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (I Corinthians 11:3). Paul introduces the concept of headship. Tony Evans explains, "Just as the head provides guidance and leadership to the human body, one who is the head in a relationship serves in a leadership role as a governing authority...This, however, does not imply inferiority on the part of those under the headship. Rather, in the orderly nature of God's design, headship provides a covering under which people are to function and flourish." Concerning Jesus we are told, "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). If Jesus had to learn obedience through suffering, how about His disciples? Everything in Jesus' life prepared Him for the cross. The cross requires obedience. Obedience is a goal of discipleship. Everything, including the great commission, is predicated on obedience. Obedience is learned in the crucible of the relationship between the disciple and his teacher. Obedience is natural to no one. It is a learned and deliberate behavior. It is a commitment of trust in a person who exemplifies the character of Christ. Learning under a seasoned trainer is necessary for developing obedience. Obedience is the driving principle of discipleship.