



# READY | Ruler

Words like *Obedience*, *Submission*, *Authority* and *Rule* can mean many different things to many different people.

*Why might people hear these words so differently?*

The scriptures teach that God uses parents, teachers, bosses, police and politicians as governing authorities on Earth.

*Describe your attitude towards each of these authority figures?*

*Has your attitude changed over time? Describe how + why.*

God's commands, boundaries and instructions can appear restrictive. This can cause people to rebel against God and go their own way. However, as we grow in understanding, we realize that God is simply protecting us from unnecessary hurt and pain.

*Where in your life can you identify a time where you:*

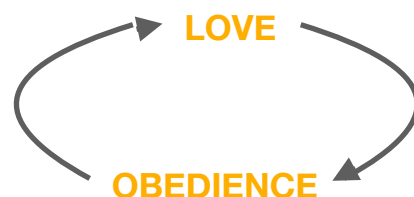
**#1.** *went your own way and experienced pain or hurt?*

**#2.** *did things God's way and experienced protection, provision, freedom?*

Jesus says "if you love me, you'll obey my commands".

*What does Jesus consider the greatest commandment(s)?*

*How can Jesus' response impact our view of obedience? Why?*



Rom 13

Jud 21:25  
Prov 29:18  
Rom 1

John 14:15

Mar 12:28-34

# READY | Ruler

---

As believers, establishing boundaries is crucial to both our wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us. This touches every part of our life: family, money, exercise + diet, sleep + rest, work, recreation, entertainment, prayer, our friends and our community.

Prov 4:18-27

Those boundaries often start with our words, our thoughts and our hearts.

*What boundary lines is God teaching you about in this season of your life?*

Ps 18:11

Ps 23

Prov 4:27

Scripture speaks frequently to righteousness (or holiness) being like a path, a road or a highway. The instruction to “*not swerve to the left or the right*” may speak to how we should avoid the ways of religion and rebellion.

It may surprise you to hear that we should avoid religion. After all, Christianity is a religion, right? Consider the Pharisees, the religious people of Jesus’ day. Jesus was heavily critical of both their lifestyles and motives.

*What was Jesus so critical about the religious people of His day?*

*What are the snares of religion that we need to be wary of in our day?*

We live in a reality where two kingdoms are at war. Jesus rules in the Kingdom of God. Satan rules in the kingdom of darkness. These opposing kingdoms are established with different rules. The Kingdom of God is governed with the rule or *law of the Spirit of Life*. The kingdom of darkness is governed by the *law of sin and death*.

Rom 8

Peter describes the transition (salvation) as being called out of darkness into His marvellous light.

1 Pet 2:9

*Can you describe this transition in your own life? Comment on these word pairings:*

“freedom + slavery”    “life + death”    “fulfilment + emptiness”

Many people misunderstand God.

*What aspects of God’s nature and character do you find to be most misunderstood or distorted as you talk with others?*

*What are some ways that you are helping others to see God for who He really is? Share examples of how you’re representing (or RE-presenting) the truth.*

**End of session.**

**Next: *Reward***