

How to Biblically Appeal to Our Authorities

How we see ourselves. What is our goal in our life will make a difference in how we appeal to our authorities.

When we have a biblical approach to appealing to our authorities as a servant of Jesus we glorify our Lord.

God knows who we are, where we are, and what is best for us.

God found Saul

1 Samuel 10:21-22 (ESV)

²¹ He brought the tribe of Benjamin nearby its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot;^[a] and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. ²² So they inquired again of the LORD, “Is there a man still to come?” and the LORD said, “Behold, **he has hidden himself among the baggage.**”

God found Gideon

Judges 6:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son **Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.** ¹² And the angel of

the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, **O mighty man of valor.**”

God found his disciples

Matthew 4:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, **he saw two brothers**, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”^[a]

God found Zacchaeus

Luke 19:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ So he ran on ahead and **climbed up into a sycamore tree** to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when **Jesus came to the place, he looked up** and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

God found Gary Payne

Psalm 75:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,
⁷ but it is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.

1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that **at the proper time he may exalt you,**

Matthew 25:21 (ESV)

²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.^[a] **You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.** Enter into the joy of your master.’

We can make our appeals in the **flesh** or in the **Spirit**.

Six Basic Requirements for an Effective Appeal

- 1. Must be in right standing.**
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Nehemiah 1:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, **confessing the sins of the people of Israel**, which we have sinned against you. **Even I and my father's house have sinned.**⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

2. Must have the **Right Motives**

Why are we making the appeal to our authority?

- Be concerned for your **authorities' reputation**
 - Be concerned for your **authorities' goals**.
 - Be concerned for your **authorities' authority**.
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3. We must appeal at the **appropriate time**.

4. We must **give accurate information** to our authority.

5. We must have **the right attitudes**.

How is **motive** different **attitude**?

Motive is: Why we make our appeal.

Attitude is: How we make our appeal.

Philippians 2:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this **mind** among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a]

Attitudes not to have are Critical attitude or a Judgmental attitude.

Matthew 7:3 (ESV)

³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice **the log that is in your own eye?**

Many times people cannot see our **hearts** because of our **attitude**.

Three good attitudes to have when we make our appeals:

- 1) Reverence
 - 2) Loyalty
 - 3) Gratefulness
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6. We must use appropriate words.

Our words need to be:

- 1) Gracious
 - 2) Humble
 - 3) Truthful
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Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

¶ Let your speech always be **gracious, seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:6 (MSG)

¶ Be **gracious** in your speech. The goal is to bring out the **best in others** in a conversation, **not put them down, not cut them out**.

Concluding Remarks about making an appeal are:

- Make appeals **sparingly**, they are more likely to be received.
 - We are not to **manipulate** our delegated authority.
 - We are to pray, encourage, support, and **trust God** to bless, convict, remove, or change our delegated authority.
 - After making an appeal, we need to be ready to present a **solution** if asked.
 - Many of us are fearful of making an appeal to our authorities and would rather have a **bitter spirit** or try to undermine their authority.
 - Most of the time there is more going on than just the appeal, do lose sight of the **big picture**.
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