

# Everybody Submits to Somebody

The Scottish reformer Samuel Rutherford (1600 – 1661) published *Lex, Rex, or the Law and the Prince* in 1644.

In this book, he challenged the prevailing notion of the divine right of kings – that whatever the king says is the law.

Rutherford reminded rulers that they are not authorities unto themselves, but they are all under God's authority. God is the ultimate source of all authority in this world.

Rutherford was a Scottish Presbyterian pastor, theologian and author, and one of the Scottish Commissioners to the Westminster Assembly of Divines in London, taking part in formulating the Westminster Confession of Faith, completed in 1647.

Rutherford's conclusion is correct – and speaks to our world in 2016.

No matter how much authority we think we have in any setting – be it government, business, education, church or community organizations – we quickly discover there is someone with more.



But no one's authority is ultimate, for all authorities are ultimately subject to God. From parents to potentates, the apostle Paul reminds us that God establishes all authorities on earth. Unless an authority requires us to break a law of God, we should make submission and honor a part of our lives, according to Acts 5:29: "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'"

Who are the authorities in your life? If there are some you find it difficult to submit to, make it a practice to pray diligently for them. It's hard to resist someone you are praying for.

Submission to authorities shows we understand the nature of authority.

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God (Romans 13:1 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter