



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States**

**The Monthly Message
to the consecrated brothers and sisters
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Nature of Submission (1)

Submission is a positive attitude that keeps balance between two contradictions: rebellion and surrender. We will talk in detail about each attitude in the following:

First, Rebellion

Rebellion is a revolt against authority, accepting not its orders, and disobeying it. Rebellion comes from a prideful heart, a stubborn ego, a disobedient will, and an evil soul. For the Holy Bible says, “An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore, a cruel messenger will be sent against him” (Proverbs 17:11).

The prophet Jeremiah clarified the disobedience present within rebellion saying, “But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they have revolted and departed” (Jeremiah 5:23).

The Holy Bible correlates between rebellion, sorcery, witchcraft, and idolatry as they are all among the works of the devil, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (1 Samuel 15:23).

Examples of rebellion in the Holy Bible

1. King Saul

The Holy Bible mentions the story of the transgression king Saul fell in when he deviated from God’s arrangement and trespassed against the rights of the authority appointed by the Lord, *“Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were*

scattered from him. So, Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore, I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering." And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue" (1 Samuel 13:8-14).

It is noticed that in spite of all these compulsive excuses which Saul mentioned, he was judged that he had done foolishly because he broke the Lord's arrangement which appointed Samuel the prophet priest alone to get the authority of offering sacrifices. As a consequence of his rebellion, his kingdom vanished.

2. Miriam and Aaron

The Holy Bible mentioned also the story of rebellion of Miriam and Aaron against Moses, *"Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?"..... So, the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow.... So, Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again" (Numbers 12:1-15).*

We notice here that God is not lenient with those who rebel against the authority appointed by Him.

3. Korah, Dathan and Abiram

This is another example of rebellion. Those three people *“rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You [a]take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?” ... And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.... and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up.... So, they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly”* (Numbers 16:1-33).

This was a rebellion from the part of Korah, Dathan and Abiram against the arrangement of God who chose Moses the prophet to fulfill His goal. Thus, the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up as a punishment for their rebellion.

4. Diotrephes

St. John the beloved, the apostle of love, mentions the story of Diotrephes saying, *“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God”* (3 John 9-11).

It is clear that St. John, who was known by his sweetness and love, is strict and firm in his expressions, and strong in confronting this man.

These are some examples of rebellion mentioned in the Holy Bible. They show the spirit of revolt against authority in stubbornness, disobedience and pride. It is a left-wing oppositional extremist attitude.