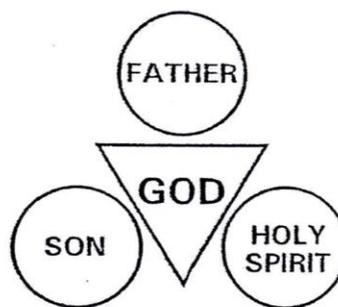


Authority Rules

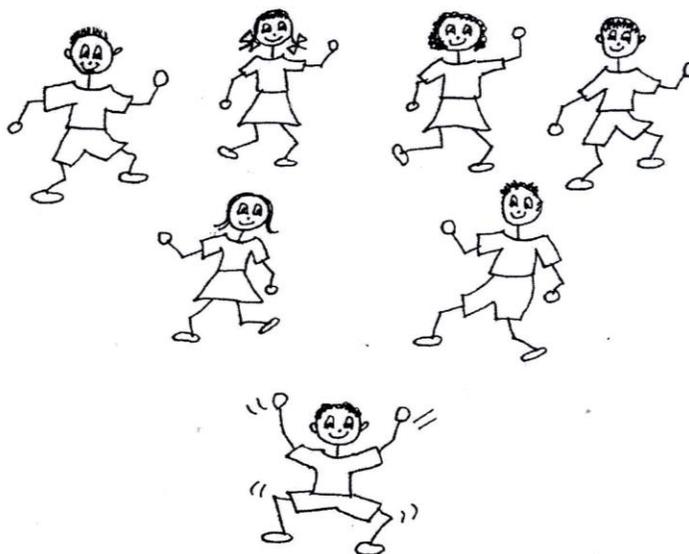
Revised 12-6-2020

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood [body of Christ], fear [respect] God, honor the king. 1 Peter 2:13-17

The word **authority** means the power to command, to judge or to act. **God** is the top authority. He is all powerful so He has all power to command, judge, and act for the good of all creation. He's the Boss! He used His authority to make a perfect plan for His creation. God the Father made the plan, God the Son carries out the plan, and God the Holy Spirit teaches us about the plan through the Bible.



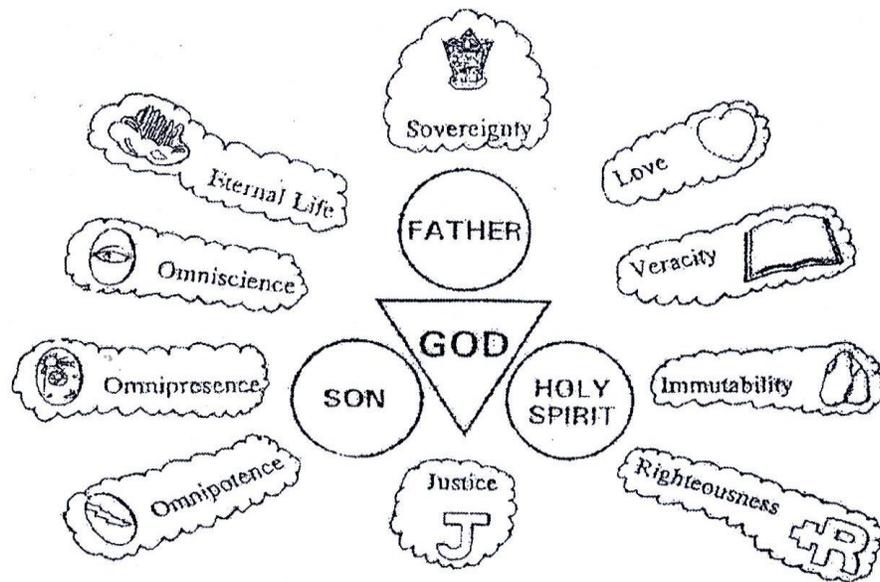
GOD IS FOR US!



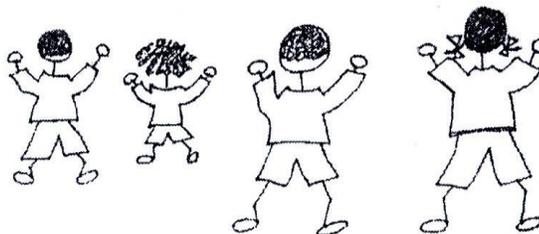
Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness [the Old Testament term for grace] and truth go before You.

God uses His goodness to control how He uses His authority. His righteousness (doing what is right) and justice (doing what is fair) are parts of His goodness. God always does what is right and fair. Other parts of God's goodness also play a role in His plan for His creation; He uses His sovereignty, omniscience, omnipresence, love, immutability, veracity, and eternal life.* What a God we have! Everything works according to His plan!! **God has dominion or ruling power and authority over everything!**

*Go to allaboardgodstrain.org and read *Our God Is An Awesome God and Never Left Alone (+R)*



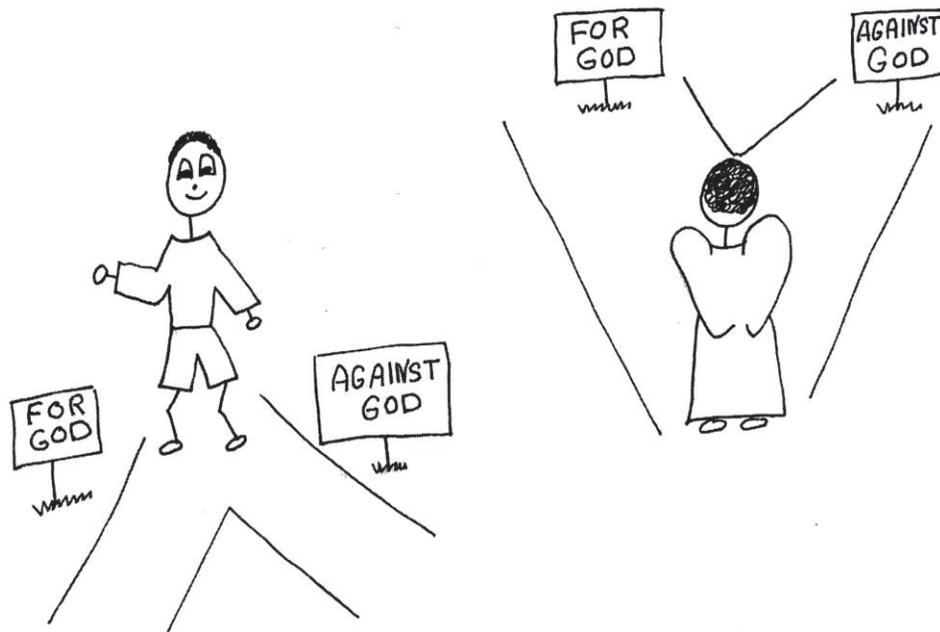
Our God is an awesome God!



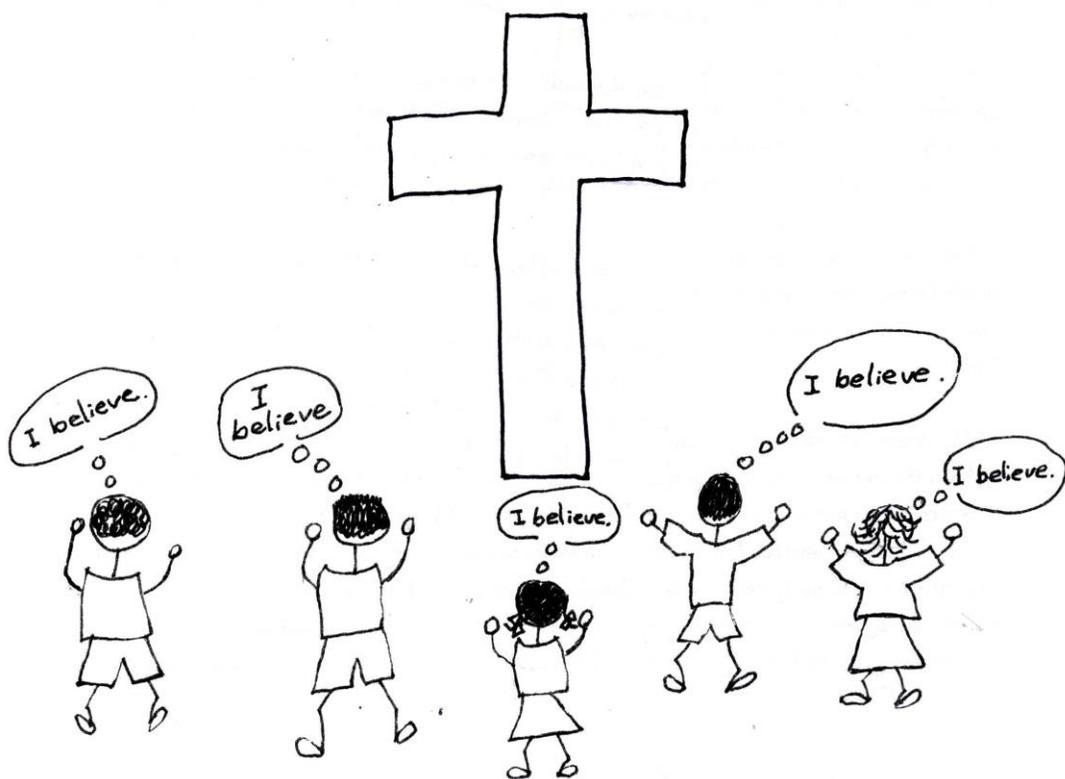
The head angel, Lucifer which means light bearer, chose to go against God's authority. He did not submit to or accept God's authority.

"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the height of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'" Isaiah 14:13-14

Not a good idea! He lost his place in heaven. His name was changed to Satan which means the accuser. He also got some of the angels to choose not to accept God's authority. What a change in their way of behaving! Satan doesn't want us to follow God's authority; he wants us to follow his authority. We have to use our volition or free will to choose for or against God. God is completely fair! He is completely just! God is the One Whose authority we are to accept and obey.

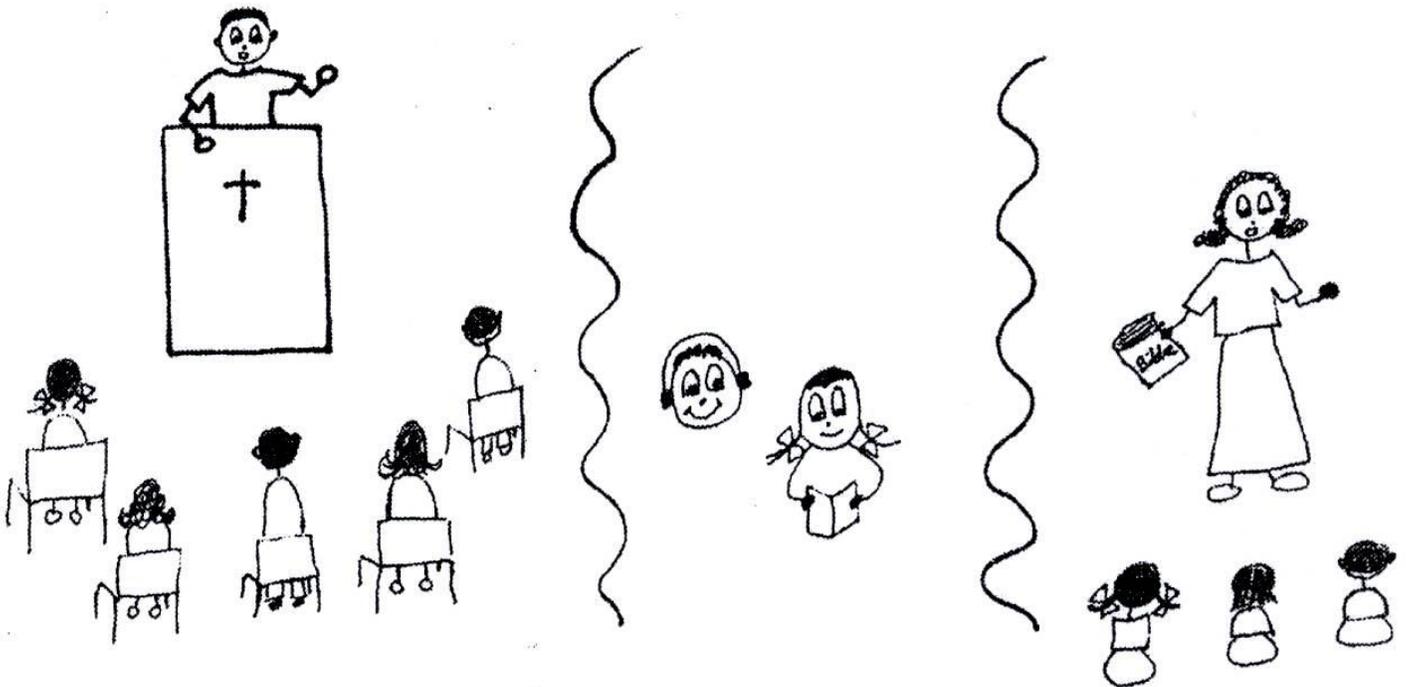


Our **volition or free will** is the authority of the soul. It tells the soul what it wants it to do. We have choices: **TO FIGHT AGAINST** or **TO ACCEPT** any authority outside our souls. Our soul is constantly under attack from the sin nature or the flesh, and the sin nature hates God. It wants us to choose against God! **UGLY!** However, to protect our soul God has provided each believer in the Church Age with the power of the Holy Spirit and divine viewpoint found in the Bible. The best choice we make is to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior! The next best is to learn more about Him!



Romans 7:18-19 For I [Paul] know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh [in the body, the home of the sin nature]; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the [divine] good is not. For the [divine] good that I want [to do], I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want [to do].

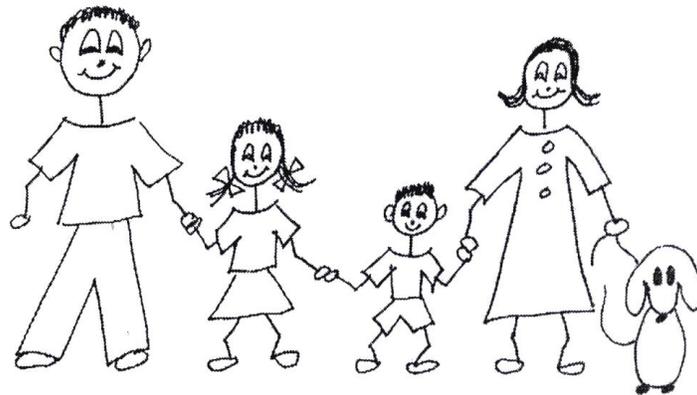
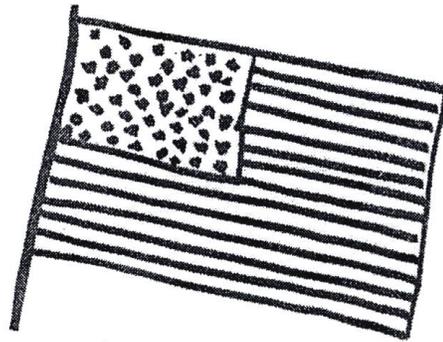
Many times we side with our sin nature. We choose our way instead of God's way. We rebel! We fight against God! Not a good thing to do! This gets us into some serious trouble! Remember, God gives us authority to protect us. When we use our volition and choose to use the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be obedient to God and live in His plan for our lives. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to understand the Bible. With God's thinking in our souls, we have protection and ammunition to use against our sin nature. Let's use our **volition** to choose **obedience or submission** and not rebellion to our **Top Authority, God!**



Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.

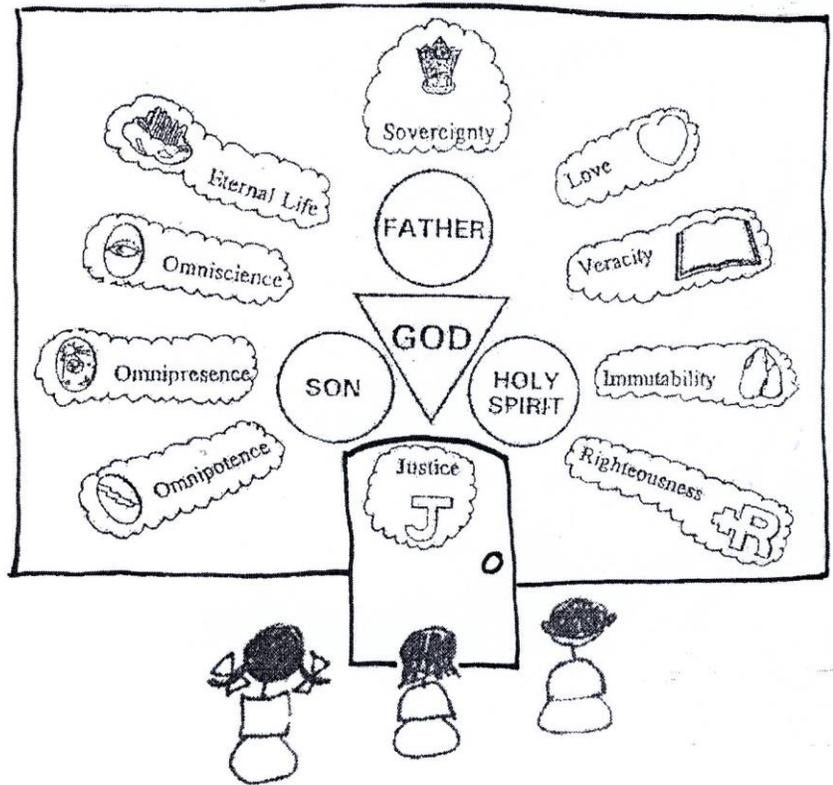
Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Besides giving us volition, God also set up marriage, the family and government to protect mankind. In marriage, the husband has authority over the wife. In the family, the parents have authority over the children. In government, the government has authority over the people. God wants these groups of people to protect freedom and authority. We can't have freedom without authority!



Colossians 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
Romans 13:1a Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.

Authority is a demonstration of God's perfect care for us. It is given to people having the legal or lawful power to make laws and to enforce or carry out the laws. Because it is given to human beings with sin natures, it is not always just. However, we are to submit to the authority or accept their rules. God is the One Who is really in control. What God's righteousness or goodness approves, His justice does. Remember, God's justice is always fair! He is our awesome, caring Authority!

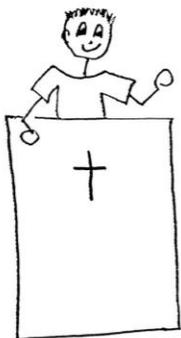


John 8:32 You [believers in Christ] shall know the truth [of God's word in the Bible], and the truth shall make you [spiritually] free.

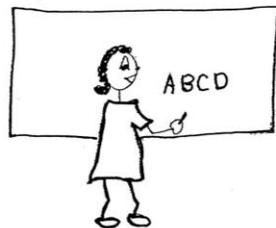
Our attitude toward any authority is our attitude toward God. When we respect authority, we are respecting God. He is the One Who gave us authority to follow. Some people think they don't need authority. **WRONG!** We never outgrow our need for it! God gives us authority to protect us and so we can have freedom. God makes no mistakes!

Romans 13:2-4 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it [authority] is a minister of God to you for good.

Pastor-Teacher



Teacher



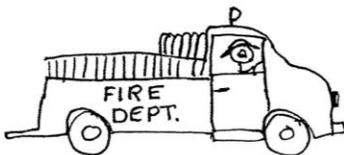
Coach



Baby Sitter



Fireman



Policeman



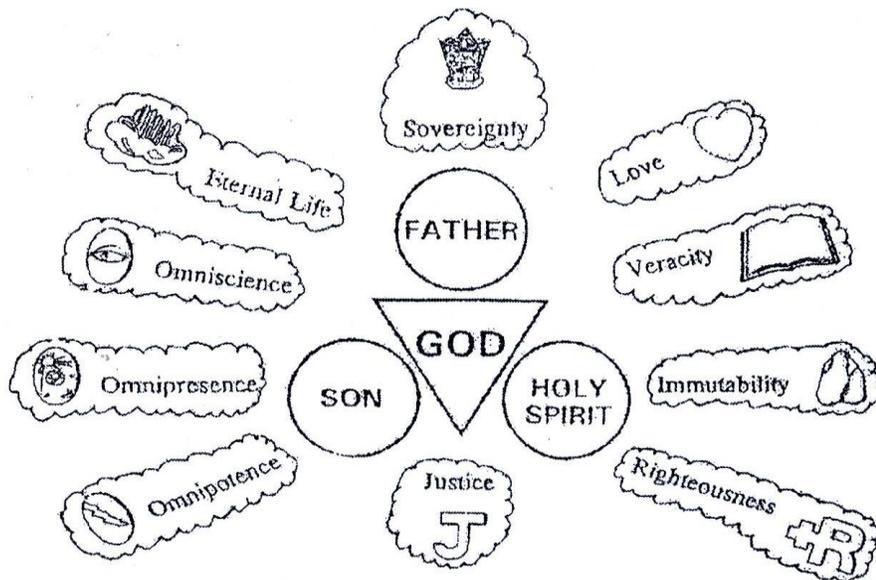
President of the USA



Food for Thought and Discussion

What authority am I following? In whom do I put my trust? What authority do I respect? Does this authority work well in my life?

Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.



Our God is an awesome God!



Vocabulary to Learn

(Use in playing charades.)

SUBMIT - To surrender to the authority, discretion, or will of another. To commit to the decision, consideration, or judgment of another.

*James 4:7 **Submit** therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

REBEL - To refuse allegiance to and oppose by force an established authority.

Romans 13: Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

*Jeremiah 28:15-17 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the Lord, "Behold, I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you have counseled **rebellion** against the Lord." So Hananiah the prophet died in the same year in the seventh month.*

OBEDIENCE - Willingly following commands; when your will and God's will are the same; your adjustment to the justice of God.

Philippians 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He [the Lord Jesus Christ] humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

ARROGANCE - A set of skills that involves an overbearing sense of self importance, including self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption.

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

HUMILITY- Teachability; the intense desire to learn.

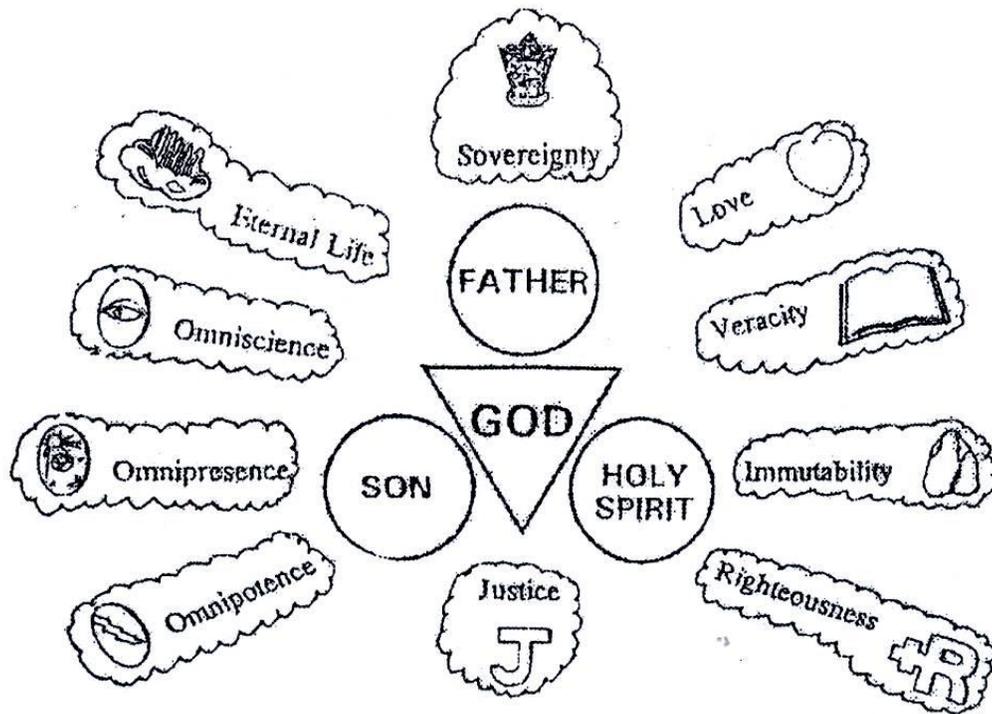
1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt [promote] you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

RESIST - To oppose.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

SUBJECTION - To voluntarily place yourself under the dominion of a sovereign.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



Authority Rules

H U M I L I T Y C X D C W W B
V O A V N O I N I M O D G P X
A Y N P B W S X Q T G D S T A
R Y A O E Y T I R O H T U A N
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O I J R Y O N S C L J Z T M E
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I N S V K J E S U S E Y N Q G
Q V C H R I S T I M B U S T L
N N O I T C E J B U S D D O S

Find These Words:

ANGELS
CHRIST
DOMINION
HUMILITY
OBEDIENCE
SUBJECTION
VOLITION

ARROGANCE
CONFLICT
FAMILY
JESUS
REBEL
SUBMIT

AUTHORITY
CREATOR
GOVERNMENT
MARRIAGE
RESIST
USURP