

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

RIISING TO HIGHER AUTHORITY

When the top-ranking Marine—the commandant of the Marine Corps—retires or needs to be replaced, the successor must be sanctioned by the U.S. Senate. The elevation of someone to the Corps' top post, along with nearly 270 other military nominations and promotions, is being blocked by a senator who wishes to bring attention to some of the Pentagon's policies. Despite the obstacle, the officer deemed most likely to step into the commandant's position—Gen. Eric Smith, assistant commandant—has this month written a letter giving direction for all marines. "Until the Senate confirms our 39th Commandant, this guidance will serve as our reference point," Smith wrote. "What I require is that when decisions are made, we move out as one to attack our problems together."

WAITING FOR HIGHER AUTHORITY

The Christians in Corinth had evidently passed judgment on how Paul was conducting his ministry, perhaps even accusing him of having sinister motives for his actions. Paul responded that he didn't really mind what they thought of him—or even what he thought of himself—but deferred all judgment to the Lord Jesus. Paul answered to God, not to humans, and the Lord's judgment would reveal not only Paul's motives but also their own. He would be exonerated, and he did not shrink back from exercising the authority entrusted to him as a servant of Christ.

1. What is a time when you approved of someone in authority?
2. When have you made a decision based not on what people wanted in the moment but on the wishes of the higher authority you were going to have to report to?
3. How can we balance our responsibility as Christians with the sometimes-ungodly desires and demands of our culture?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: ["I Love You, Lord + I Exalt Thee" by Gateway Worship](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: ["Over" by Bridge Music](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: ["Holy Place" by Faithful](#)

[Bible Project Video Summary of 1 Corinthians](#)

[Working Preacher Commentary on 1 Corinthians 4:1–5](#)

[Guzik's Commentary on 1 Corinthians 4](#)