Biblical Response to Abusive Authority

1. Command to Submit
   1. Citizens to Government – Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:13-25
   2. Servants to Masters/Employees to Employers – 1 Peter 2:18-25; Ephesians 6:5-9
   3. Wives to Husbands – 1 Peter 3:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-24
   4. Children to Parents – Ephesians 6:1-4
   5. Church Members to Elders – Hebrews 13:17
   6. All Christians to One Another – Ephesians 5:21
   7. All Believers to Christ – Luke 6:46
2. Submission Defined
   1. John Piper – (Marriage Context) It is the disposition to follow a husband’s authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership. It is an attitude that says, “I delight for you to take the initiative in our family. I am glad when you take responsibility for things and lead with love. I don’t flourish when you are passive and I have to make sure the family works.” But the attitude of Christian submission also says, “It grieves me when you venture into sinful acts and want to take me with you. You know I can’t do that. I have no desire to resist you. On the contrary, I flourish most when I can respond creatively and joyfully to your lead; but I can’t follow you into sin, as much as I love to honor your leadership in our marriage. Christ is my King.”
   2. (Adapted for all contexts) It is the disposition to follow the authority placed over and the inclination to yield to that leadership. It is an attitude that delights in yielding to that leadership, freeing you up to fulfill the role you are called to. While this is true, it also says that you can only submit to and follow that leadership so long as it is submitting to and following Christ’s. Should it ever violate the higher authority, with respect and graciousness, you can no longer submit to that authority (at least in that area).
3. Truth’s to Bear in Mind
   1. Violence is considered an offense against God and against humanity – Psalm 11, Proverbs 3, 10
   2. Limitation to submission – God First – Acts 5:29
   3. Objection: Limiting my voice
   4. Image Bearer of God
   5. Right of Life
   6. An abusive husband disobeys Christ - Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 5:25-33, 1 Peter 3:7
   7. It is permissible to seek civil recourse
   8. Use of Force may be required
4. Abuse Defined
   1. Abuse entails physical violence (Acts 16:19), threats of physical violence (Eph. 6:9), persecution (Matt. 5:44), sexual mistreatment (Judg. 19:25), reviling (Luke 6:28; 1 Pet. 2:23), speaking evil (James 4:11), or being under the misused power of another person or group of people (Gen. 16:6; 1 Sam. 2:16; Ezra 5:12).
5. Response to Abuse
   1. Seek Biblical Counseling
   2. If possible remain with and live with one who does not honor the word in order to exemplify Christ with them.
   3. Depending on severity, seek civil intervention
   4. Get support of local body of Christ