

Understanding Authority

Colossians 3:16-17

What is Authority?

- The power to make and control something or someone
- The power to rule or enforce
- The right to act in a given situation
- Permission

What is Authority?

- We see authority all around us
 - When we drive
 - To enter certain areas (restricted, admission required, etc.)
 - Our workplace
 - Schools
 - Homes
 - A police officer, doctor, pilot, lawyer, etc. (specialized, limited)

What is Authority?

- To act with authority requires these:
 - Someone who has the power to grant that authority
 - The permission that is granted
 - A standard by which one is granted permission (what limitations, etc.)
 - Biblically true

What is Authority?

- Consider Adam and Eve
 - Someone who has the power to grant that authority - God
 - The permission that is granted - every tree except one
 - A standard by which one is granted permission - do NOT eat of tree of knowledge of good and evil

Why do we need authority?

- Without it there will be chaos. Judges 17:6; 21:25
- Without it there will be evil - we need an objective standard of right and wrong. I Timothy 1:8-10
- To get things done - someone in charge. Nehemiah, apostles Nehemiah 2:17-18; Galatians 1:11-12; I Corinthians 14:37
- To establish order. Genesis 1:1-2

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- The nature of man calls for it - without a standard, how would we know right from wrong?
- There are consequences if we fail to follow God - Matthew 7:21-23; II Thessalonians 1:5-9

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- Without it, man will create his own standard of what to do
 - Judges 21:25 - “right in his own eyes”
 - Romans 1:20-23 - idolatry, the product man’s futile mind
 - Consider the multitude of divisions in religion. Some of the deepest divisions are the result of disagreement about authority

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- We need a standard of authority that will:
 - Grant us fellowship with God I John 1:3, 6-7
 - Promote the unity God demands John 17:20-21; Philippians 2:2; 3:16
 - Lead us to heaven Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- Colossians 3:17 - “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- “In the name of the Lord” means “by His permission”
- In everything we ought to ask, “IS this authorized by God?”

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that God has all authority
 - He is sovereign - has absolute and ultimate authority/power
 - He has the right to rule, govern, command, and expect obedience
 - He is God - all seeing, all knowing, everywhere, and eternal - Psalms 90:2

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that God has all authority
 - He created the world and set it in order. Genesis 1; Hebrews 3:4; 11:3
 - He knows what is best for us - He is God - much of our chaos comes from refusing to follow His pattern

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that God has all authority
 - He reigns - Isaiah 52:7, Psalms 47:8
- He has demonstrated His control
 - His word gives examples of being in control
 - Galatians 4:4-5 - Jesus at the right time
 - Jeremiah 32:27 - “Is anything too hard for me?”

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that God has all authority
 - He has delegated authority
 - In scripture we find authority delegated to governments, in homes, in the church, etc.
- Often man has a problem with God because he refuses to acknowledge Him or His sovereignty

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- Both titles describe His absolute authority
 - Acts 2:36 - “God has made him both Lord and Christ”
 - Matthew 28:18-20 - “All authority ...”

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- Throughout scripture His kingship is addressed
 - Moses - Genesis 17:6; 49:10
 - David - II Samuel 7:27-29
 - Life of Jesus - Matthew 2:2; 21:5; Mark 12:35-37; John 18:33-37
 - Apostles’ teachings - Acts 2:36; Romans 13:14; II Corinthians 11:31; Philippians 2:8-11

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- His reign “At the right hand of God” is mentioned eight times in the New Testament. See Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12; I Peter 3:22

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- Why does He have authority?
 - He is God. John 1:1; Matthew 1:23
 - He created the world. Colossians 1:15-17
 - His authority is granted by the Father. Philippians 2:9-11
 - He demonstrated this authority often. John 4:34; 5:26-30

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- In becoming Christians, it is imperative that we understand His Lordship. John 6:63

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that the Holy Spirit has all authority
- His work is authoritative
 - He also is God. Hebrews 9:14; Genesis 1:2; I Corinthians 2:10-11
 - God reveals Himself through His Spirit (in the same way a man reveals himself).

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Holy Spirit has all authority
- The Bible is the product of His work - therefore, the Word of God
 - John 16:7-11 - convicts the world
 - John 14:26; 16:13 - guides into all truth
 - I Peter 1:22-23 - we obey the truth through the Spirit
 - II Peter 1:20-21; I Corinthians 2:9-11; Ephesians 3:3-5

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Holy Spirit has all authority
- IF the Bible is the product of the Holy Spirit, it is from God and **MUST** be respected as such.
 - As such it is a standard of authority we need to follow. II Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 2:12-16; John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-12

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Holy Spirit has all authority
- If the Bible is the word of God, we must strive to understand it properly.

How do we establish authority?

- We need an objective standard
- Do we respect the Bible as His word? I Thessalonians 2:13
- We need to use common sense and wisdom. There are only three valid ways to establish authority
 - Command - being told
 - Example - observing accepted conduct
 - Necessary implication - the inescapable conclusion based on the facts

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 - “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
 - Romans 10:11 - “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - I John 4:15 - “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - Acts 2:38 - “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:14 - “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”