

**UNDERSTANDING
AUTHORITY**

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What is Authority?

- It can mean power to make and control something or someone
- It can mean the power to rule or enforce
- It can mean the right to act in a given situation
- Permission!

What is Authority?

- We see authority all around us
 - When you drive
 - To enter certain areas (e.g. 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 at least three things:
 - 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.)

What is Authority?

- To act with authority requires at least 3 thing things: True Biblically
- Consider Adam & 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
cf. Judges 17:6, 21:25
- Without it there will be evil - we need an objective standard of right and wrong
Cf. 1 Timothy 1:8-9
- To get things done - someone in charge. Nehemiah, apostles (**Galatians 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 14:37**), etc.
- To establish order - **cf. Genesis 1:1-2ff**

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- The nature of created 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**, **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- Without it, man will create his own standard of what to do
 - Again, **Judges 21:25**
 - **Romans 1:20-23** - idolatry, the product man's futile minds
 - Consider the multitudes of division in religion. Some of our deepest divides are the result of disagreement about authority!

Why do we need authority spiritually?

- Because we need fellowship with fellowship with God - **1 John 1:3, 6-7**
- Because God demands unity - **John 17:20-21, Philippians 2:2, 3:16**
- Because we want to go to heaven - **Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6, etc.**

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- **Colossians 3:17** - *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
In the name of the Lord - means "by His permission"
We ought to ask in everything, 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 - **Psalm 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, Psalm 47:8**
- He has demonstrated His control - His word gives many examples of being in control - cf. **Galatians 4:4**
- Jesus at the right time; **Jeremiah 32:27** - is there 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 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**
- **Matthew 28:18-20**

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- - Throughout scripture His kingship is addressed
- writings of Moses - **Genesis 17:6, 49:10**
- David - **2 Samuel 7:12-13**
- The prophets
- Life of Jesus - **Matthew 2:2, 21:1-10, Mark 12:35-37, John 18:33-37, etc.**
- Apostle's teachings - **Acts 2:36, Romans 13:14, 2 Corinthians 11:31, Philippians 2:11**

What Does Religious Authority Mean?

- We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and King
- "At the right hand of God" - mentioned some 11 times in the NT about His reign
- esp. **Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 10:12, 12:2, 1 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 1:17**
- Authority 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 Holy Spirit has all authority
- His work is authoritative
 - He also is God - **Hebrews 9:14** - eternal Spirit
 - Genesis 1:2** - at creation
 - 1 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 - hence THE WORD OF GOD!
 - **John 16:7-11** - convicts the world
 - **Jn. 14:26, 16:13** - guides into all truth
 - **1 Peter 1:22-23** - we obey the truth through the Spirit
 - **2 Peter 1:20-21, 1 Corinthians 2:9-11, Ephesians 3:3-5, etc.**

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 the standard of authority we need to follow - **2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 1:16-17**
 - By it we will be judged in the last day - **Romans 2:16, 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? Cf. **1 Thessalonians 2:13**
- We need to use common sense and wisdom. There are only 3 valid ways to establish authority
 - Command - being told
 - Example - observing accepted conduct
 - Necessary implication - we accurately put together facts and conclude

Concluding thoughts

- We need an objective standard
- When one obeys the gospel, he must believe and confess Jesus as Lord -
Romans 10:9-10
- But he must also repent and be baptized - **Acts 2:38**
Finally, consider **Matthew 28:18-20** again

Will I observe “all things commanded”?