

Authority: Part 2

The Chain of Authority

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Review prior lesson
 - i. God's inherent authority
 1. Created us
 2. Judged us
 3. Saved us
 - b. Question authority bumper sticker
 - c. By whose authority do you do these things? (Mt. 21: 23-27)
- II. The nature of delegated authority
 - a. Contrast with inherent authority
 - i. Inherent authority comes from what you are
 - ii. Delegated authority is given to you (Jn. 19: 10-11)
 1. Does not depend on worthiness or fitness
 2. Depends on the higher authority
 - b. Subordinate to higher authority (1 Cor. 15:24-28)
 - c. Carries the same weight as the original delegating power (Jn. 5:23; Jn. 12:44-45)
 - d. Two mistakes
 - i. Take on more authority than we have been given
 1. This is what they accused Jesus of doing – “Who gave you this authority?” – John 19:7, 12
 2. In this cases it was a false charge
 3. But true or false, it is a very serious.
 4. Impersonating a police officer
 - ii. Give our authority to another - Cannot be abdicated or transferred
 1. (Pilate washing his hands) – Matt. 27:24
 2. Leaving minor children unattended or in the care of a young child
 - iii. When men are exercising authority, these are mistakes that result in
 1. imprisonment, execution in civil government
 2. reproof and discipline in the home
 3. reprimand and firing in the workplace
 4. discipline and disfellowship in the church
 - iv. Will God overlook or put up with it?
- III. Delegated Authority in Five Realms
 - a. Spiritual Authority
 - i. God – total inherent authority
 - ii. Christ (Mt. 17:5,6; Mt. 28:18; Jn. 12:48-50)
 - iii. Apostles (Mt 16:15-19)
 - b. Church Authority
 - i. Christ
 - ii. Apostles

- iii. Elders (Heb 13:7, 17) – obey those who rule over you
 - iv. Christians
 - c. Family Authority
 - i. Husband (Eph. 5:22-33) Love wife as Christ loved the church
 - ii. Wife – Submit to your husband as to the Lord
 - iii. Bodies (1 Cor. 7:4) – Neither has authority over their own body, give due affection
 - iv. Children (Eph. 6:1-3) – Honor your father and mother
 - d. Civil Authority (Rom. 13:1-3) – be subject to the governing authorities
 - i. Government
 - ii. Citizens
 - e. Personal Authority
 - i. Christ
 - ii. Apostles
 - iii. Individual
 - 1. Our lives (partially)
 - 2. Our bodies (partially)
 - 3. Our thought
 - 4. Our words
 - 5. Our deeds
 - iv. Beyond this, we have NO control or authority
 - 1. If anyone or anything submits to our will, it is because they are submitting to some delegated authority we may have been given
 - 2. In effect they are submitting to the higher authority who put us over them in some way
 - v. In our sphere of authority
 - 1. We are essentially unrestrained in what we can choose to do
 - a. Other cannot intervene
 - b. God chooses not to
 - 2. We are personally accountable for those choices
 - 3. We honor God if we choose His ways
 - 4. We revile God if we set His ways aside
 - vi. Voluntary vs. involuntary actions
 - f. Creation
 - i. Natural World
 - 1. Jesus (Mk. 4:39–41) - The wind and sea obey Him!
 - 2. man over nature (Ps. 8:3-8) – He has dominion over the work of your hands
 - ii. Spiritual World
 - 1. (Mk. 1:23-27) Jesus had authority over demons
 - 2. Apostles also (Lk. 9:1)

IV. Conclusion

- a. Views of authority:
 - i. Whose authority? My authority

1. Contrast humanist view of man to religious
2. “We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest. To deny this distorts the whole basis of life. Human life has meaning because we create and develop our futures. Happiness and the creative realization of human needs and desires, individually and in shared enjoyment, are continuous themes of humanism. We strive for the good life, here and now. The goal is to pursue life's enrichment despite debasing forces of vulgarization, commercialization, and dehumanization.” – Humanist Manifesto II
3. Atheist view
 - ii. Whose authority: We don't know
 1. Agnostic view
 - iii. Whose authority? God's authority, and His delegates
 1. Question authority, then submit to it
- b. There are only two states: (Acts 26:15-18; Col. 1:13-14)
 - i. Under Satan's authority
 - ii. Under God's authority
- c. Which are you under?