

By Whose Authority?

October 29, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church

Titus 2:15

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Premise: God's leaders must teach God's Word and lead His Church with true biblical authority and the church must submit to such authority.

1 Ths 5:12; 1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17

Paul to Titus:

Declare –

Exhort –

Rebuke –

Realize your office: don't allow them to disregard or despise you.

Biblical Truths About Godly Authority:

1. All human authority is delegated from God

Rm 13:1-7. Tit 3:1-3; 1 Pet 2:17-18, etc. Dan 4:17,25

God places authorities in your life – none are there except by God's hand

Elders are to lead and shepherd the flock – not Lord it over: 1 Pet 5:2-3

Leaders may sin and should be held accountable: 1 Tim 5:19-20

Beware of "touch not the Lord's anointed" threats: Ps 105:15; 1 Sm 24:10-11

Don't be afraid to call out unbiblical issues: 1 Sam 24:12-15

2. All authority is given by God & designed for our blessing & protection.

Political: Rom 13:3-5. Pray for authorities: 1 Tim 2:1-2

Church: Tit 1:10-11; Heb 13:17

Home: Eph 5:22-30; 1 Tim 3:4-5

3. Authority does NOT imply superiority

Eph 5:22, 25. 1 Cor 11:3. 1 Cor 15:27-18

If submission implies inferiority then that would mean Christ is inferior to the Father which is heresy!

Authority does not imply superiority – rather different God-given roles!

4. Authority comes with responsibility and accountability

Being in authority means responsibility to equip those in your care to get the job done – NOT sit back and make them do it!

Heb 13:17; Rom 13:4. Jesus Lk 12:41-43

A good leader uses those under their authority who know more than them for the benefit of all (glory of God)

5. Church authority is vested in a plurality of elders

Tit 1:5. NT always refers to plurality of elders for local church rule.

6. Authority is more about character than the position

This often gets reversed in the world!

Jesus taught about this problem: Mk 10:42-45

Christ-like character is the key to being a good leader!

7. Authority in the local church is built upon the teaching & guidance of God's Holy Word. Sola-Scriptura

Jn 17:17. 2 Tim 3:16-17.

Elders – hold firm to trustworthy Word as taught Titus 1:9

Discuss:

Test yourself to see if you apply Biblical authority in your life:

- Is Jesus truly my Lord? Am I committed to submitting to God's authority in my life as revealed to me in His Word?
- Am I under authority in the various God-ordained spheres of my life? Do I submit to the government? (Speed limit, taxes, etc.) What is my attitude towards my elders, my husband, my parents, my teacher, my boss? Am I only giving outward, grumbling compliance, or am I obediently cheerful from the heart?
- When I dislike what those in authority do or say, what are my 1st thoughts? Do I like Joseph see God's hand (Gen 50:20)?
- In my positions of authority(elder, husband, parent, boss, teacher): do I wrongly use it for my own selfish advantages or do I exercise my responsibility fearfully because I know my responsibility before God?
- In my positions of authority, do I lead with an air of superiority or do I humbly serve and bless those I lead?
- Is my character Christ-like such that it elicits respect or does it undermine my leadership roles? Does God's Word guide my thinking?

Further Discussion:

- Why is it important for those in authority to remember that we only hold a delegated authority?
- Although God designed authority for our blessing and protection, He allows in this fallen world a lot of abusive authority to exist? Why do you think God allows this? How should we handle abusive authority?
- When is it right to rebel against abusive authority? What biblical guidelines would you use to help you?
- "Touch not the Lord's anointed" is often used by those who abuse authority. Read 1 Sam 24:10-15. Can you learn any principles on dealing with abusive authority?