

## DOCTRINE OF AUTHORITY

### 1. DEFINITION:

- a. Authority is the right to command and to enforce obedience; this right may be delegated.
- b. An official or a group having administrative control in a specific area.
- c. An authoritative opinion, decision or precedent.
- d. One who has a special knowledge, i.e., an expert.
- e. Biblically, authority is the power and influence of God as the absolute sovereign of the universe. All authority exists and is established by God. (Rom. 13:1, 2; Psa. 33:6, 9; 148:5, 6)
- f. Authority, therefore, is a bona fide concept under the **laws of divine establishment** (L.O.D.E), God's laws which protect and perpetuate the human race in the Devil's world.
- g. Authority is part of the believer's function under the Royal Family honor code.

### 2. DESCRIPTION:

- a. Authority is the key to life.
- b. For authority to be exercised properly, it must be based on integrity.
  - (1) Remember, integrity is **living by principle no matter what**.
  - (2) All true integrity comes from God. Integrity is loyalty to truth.  
Perfect Integrity = God's Righteousness + God's Justice  
$$I_N = (+R) + (J)$$
  - (3) The unbeliever at best can live by the Laws of Divine Establishment.
  - (4) The believer lives by the Laws of Divine Establishment plus all the other principles of the Word of God
- c. Authority begins with discipline which leads to self-discipline; and self-discipline leads to group discipline.
- d. Individuality is expressed only after the acceptance of authority, never before.
  - (1) Learning in the home - children
  - (2) Learning in the school - students
  - (3) Learning on the team - athletes
  - (4) Learning on the job - employees
  - (5) Learning in the military - soldiers
  - (6) Learning in the local church under a pastor-teacher - congregation
- e. Learning under authority:
  - (1) Some considerations-
    - (a) Good manners (1 Thess. 2:10-12; 2 Thess. 3:7; Phil 2:3, 4)
    - (b) Poise (Heb. 10:22)
    - (c) Concentration (Phil. 4:8)
    - (d) Courtesy (Rom. 12:18)
    - (e) Respect for the rights of others (Rom. 12:17; 13:7)
    - (f) Teachable attitude (Phil. 2:5-8)

- (g) Accurate and objective learning (2 Tim. 2:15)
- (h) Silence (1 Cor. 14:34, 35; 1 Tim. 2:11, 12)
- (2) It is always better to assume you know nothing so you can learn something than to assume you know everything so you learn nothing.
- (3) Only under God's authority by means of God's integrity can we ever know God's way. God's way is the only way to have capacity for life. (1 Cor. 2:9-16; Isa. 55:8, 9)

### **3. AUTHORITY VERSUS LEADERSHIP:**

- a. Leader – one who guides or acts as a guiding force, as a commander; usually one who is in authority, one who goes in advance of others.
- b. Leadership – the office, position, or capacity of a leader; the ability to lead; the guidance of a leader or a group of leaders. **Good leadership** is the proper exercise of authority.
- c. While **authority** is the right to command, **leadership** is the ability and capacity to command.
- d. **PRINCIPLE**: all leaders have authority!
- e. **PRINCIPLE**: not all in authority are leaders!

### **4. VOCABULARY:**

- a. **ὑπακούω** – hupakouo – (verb) to listen to, to obey, to follow, to be subject to, to hear while under the authority of someone else. (Matt. 8:27; Lk. 8:25; Rom. 6:16; Eph. 6:1; 1 Pet. 3:6; Col. 3:20, 22)
- b. **ὑπακοή** – hupakoe – (noun) obedience (Rom. 16:26)
- c. **ὑποτάσσω** – hupotasso – (vb. passive voice) to place oneself under the orders of someone else; to be in submission to, to be subordinate to (Rom. 8:20; 1 Cor. 14:32; Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; James 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:5)
- d. **ὑπερέχω** – huperecho – (vb.) to be in authority over, to have or to hold over (1 Pet. 2:13b)
- e. **ὑποταγή** – hupotage – (n.) subjection, subordination, obedience, submission (2 Cor. 9:13; Gal. 2:5; 1 Tim. 2:11; 3:4)
- f. **πείθω** – peitho – (vb. passive voice) to be persuaded, to be convinced, to come to believe, to believe, to obey, to follow (Rom. 2:8; Gal. 3:1 v.l.; 5:7; Heb. 13:17; James 3:3)
- g. **πειθαρκέω** – peitharkeo – (vb.) to obey (because of the principle of authority) (Titus 3:1)
- h. **ἐπιταγή** – epitage – (n.) a command, an order, authority (Titus 1:3; 2:15; 1 Cor. 7:25; 2 Pet. 2:10); by command (Rom. 16:26; 1 Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:3)
- i. **ἐπιτάσσω** – epitasso – (vb.) to order, to command (Lk. 8:25; Phlm. 8)

- j. ἐντολή – entole – (n.) command, commandment, order, or decree  
(Titus 1:14)
- k. ἐξουσία – exousia – (n.) freedom of choice, the right to act, authority  
(2 Cor. 10:8; Col. 1:16)
- l. ἀρχή – arche – (n.) beginning, origin, ruler, authority, domain, sphere of  
influence (Col. 1:16; Titus 3:1)
- m. אָמַר - 'emer –(n.) a word, a command, a mandate, discourse (Job 20:29)
- n. אָמַר - 'amar – (vb.) to say, to bring to light, to command (Est. 1:17;  
Neh. 13:9)
- o. יָצַח - ya'atz – (vb.) to command, to give counsel, to take counsel, to  
decree (2 Kings 6:8)
- p. תָּצַו - tzavah – (vb.) to constitute, to appoint, to charge, to command,  
to commission, to delegate (Gen. 26:11; Psa. 33:9; 148:6)

## **5. AREAS OF AUTHORITY IN LIFE:**

### **a. Spiritual authority**

- (1) God's authority is revealed through Bible Doctrine. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
- (2) Authority in the local church is vested in the pastor-teacher.  
(1 Cor. 16:15, 16; 2 Cor. 10:8; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; Heb. 13:7, 17;  
Titus 1:3; 2:15)
  - (a) The pastor-teacher is God's delegated authority. (Eph. 3:11-13)
  - (b) The pastor-teacher is the final authority in the local church in all  
spiritual matters: the communication of Bible doctrine, the  
setting of policy, and the oversight of administration.
  - (c) The pastor-teacher has authority over only one local church.
  - (d) The pastor-teacher must be trained and be qualified and have the  
spiritual gift to teach and decide spiritual issues in any local  
church. (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:6-16; 2 Tim. 2:15, 24; Titus 1:6-9)
  - (e) The pastor-teacher must establish his authority by studying and  
teaching the Word of God. (1 Peter 5:1-3; Col. 1:25-29;  
Titus 2:1, 15)
  - (f) The deacons have delegated authority to carry out and  
administer the policies of the pastor-teacher. (1 Tim. 3:8-13)

### **b. Temporal authority**

- (1) Authority under the divine institutions (part of the **laws of divine  
establishment – L.O.D.E.**)
  - (a) The **volition has authority** over the soul. (Jn. 3:15; 14:23)
  - (b) The **husband has authority** over his own wife. (Eph. 5:22;  
Col. 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1)
  - (c) The **parents have authority** over their own children. (Eph. 6:1;  
Col. 3:20; Heb. 12:9) Parental authority is the basis of stability  
in society.

**NOTE:** Parents are responsible for teaching Bible doctrine to their children. (Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6; 31:1-31)

(d) The **government has authority** over the citizens within a national entity, regardless of the form of government. This authority includes the following: national leadership, common laws, federal governments, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and military organizations. (Rom. 13:1-7)

(2) Academic authority – in the classroom

(a) The best system for teaching is one teacher with authority in a classroom communicating to many. (Acts 2:14-36; 3:8-12; Acts 7:1-53; 10:34-44; 13:16-47; 17:22-31)

(b) Teaching is best done as monolog not dialogue. (Matt. 5:1-7:29)

(c) Students primarily collect facts and learn how to think under academic discipline. (Prov. 4:5-7; 23:12)

(3) Athletic authority – all athletes and athletic teams must have coaches.

(a) Training and discipline produce winners. (1 Cor. 9:24-27)

(b) Winning is Biblical. (1 Cor. 9:24, 25; 1 Tim. 2:5)

(c) Winning is a mental attitude. (Phil. 2:5; 3:12-15)

(d) Winners never quit. (2 Tim. 4:7)

(4) Authority in business – management

(a) The employer is the final authority in business.

(b) Management invests the capitol and takes the risk; therefore, management sets the policies.

(c) Biblically, the rules of a free economy are best: free enterprise, private property, supply and demand. (Matt. 20:1-15; Acts 5:1-10)

(d) Authority in business stabilizes the economy.

(5) Authority in the military or law enforcement – superior officers, general staff, etc.

(a) Rank has its privileges (R.H.I.P.) – (Matt. 8:8-10; Luke 7:7, 8)

(b) While under this authority, we give up some of our freedom by self-discipline and group-discipline to produce a team effort. In the case of the military, we fight as a team to defend our national freedom.

## **6. AUTHORITY AND THE FALL OF MAN:**

a. Rejection of God's authority on the part of the woman resulted in her fall. (Gen. 3:1-6a)

b. The woman failed in the garden under two principles of authority.

(1) She failed to recognize God's spiritual authority, the word taught by the Lord Jesus Christ daily in the garden. (Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:8)

(2) She failed to recognize God’s temporal authority, the man who was both the divinely commissioned ruler of the world and the ruler of the woman under category #2 love. (Note: category #1 love is the love of God)

- c. The woman’s failure is emphasized in 1 Tim. 2:11-15.
- d. The man also rejected God’s authority and ate of the fruit of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” (Gen. 3:6b; Rom. 5:12-19)

7. **COMMANDMENTS FROM GOD** – demonstrate the absolute authority of God;
- a. God has certain commandments, as often indicated by the imperative and subjunctive moods of the verb, which are directed toward the believer for his obedience. (Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21; 11:13-28; 1 Sam. 15:22; Jer. 7:23; Jer. 11:4, 7; 1 John 3:23; Zech. 6:15; 1 John 1:9; Acts 16:31)
  - b. These commandments stem from the omniscience and sovereignty of God and are executed by the believer under the control of the Holy Spirit and through the function of the **grace apparatus for perception** (G.A.P.).
  - c. Failure to obey the commandments of God leads to individual and national discipline under **five cycles of discipline**. (Levit. 26:14-42)

8. **AUTHORITY IN NATURE**:
- a. God has established divine laws in the natural realm, generally termed “natural laws” or “scientific laws.”
  - b. Nature obeys God. (Matt. 8:27; Mk. 4:41; Lk. 8:25) God does not obey nature.
  - c. Nature or natural laws are not God or gods. (Gen. 1:1; Col.1:16, 17; 2:8, 9)

9. **AUTHORITY IN THE ANGELIC REALM**: (See: The Doctrine of the Angelic Conflict)
- a. Angelic creatures, both elect and fallen are subject to divine authority. (Mk. 1:27; 1 Pet. 3:22; Job 1, 2)
  - b. Angelic creatures have both rank and chain of command. (Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:16)

10. **OPPOSITION TO AUTHORITY IS NON-BIBLICAL**: (Rom. 13:2; Titus 2:7-10 with Titus 3:1)
- a. Negative volition toward God, His plan, His Word, and His people.
  - b. Mental attitude sins (M.A.S.) from the old sin nature (O.S.N.). (arrogance is the number one M.A.S.) (Rom. 7:17-25; Eph. 2:3)
  - c. The lust pattern of the O.S.N. includes the following lusts:
    - (1) Ego lust
    - (2) Power lust
    - (3) Approbation lust
    - (4) Wonder lust
    - (5) Wander lust
    - (6) Sexual lust
    - (7) Materialism lust
    - (8) Monetary lust
    - (9) Pleasure lust

- d. Ignorance of Bible doctrine (Hosea 4:6-10)
  - (1) No divine norms and standards: no absolutes.
  - (2) Sincerity without knowledge of Bible doctrine results in divine rejection.
- e. Divisions – small groups which gossip, slander, and malign the authority within a larger organization.
- f. Programs designed to keep people busy and make them feel important but which generally are non-content oriented and non-edifying as far as the Word of God is concerned.

### **11.SOURCES OF OPPOSITION TO AUTHORITY;**

- a. Ignorant believers or unbelievers. (2 John 7-11; 3 John 9, 10; 2 Pet. 2:1-3)
- b. Demon possessed unbelievers. (1 Tim. 4:1)
- c. Demon influenced or demon obsessed believers. (Eph. 4:14; 6:11-13)
- d. Neurotic or psychotic types and those generally disoriented toward reality.
- e. Honest and objective disagreement with those in authority is legitimate and bona fide as long as there is respect for and obedience to the final decisions of those in authority.

### **12.FINAL PRINCIPLES DEALING WITH AUTHORITY:**

- a. All bona fide authority comes from God. (Rom. 13:1; 1 Thess. 2:4-6; 1 Cor. 14:37, 38)
- b. If God doesn't promote you, you are not promoted; if God promotes you, you are promoted indeed! (1 Pet. 5:6; James 4:10; 2 Cor. 10:18)
- c. All rejection of and rebellion against authority opposes the ordinances of God and is sponsored by Satan and his policy of evil. (Rom. 13:2; 1 Tim. 4:1)
- d. All true leadership exercises authority in harmony with divine norms and standards and gains respect, not fear, by the proper exercise of that authority. (1 Tim. 5:17-19; 2 Cor. 10:9)
- e. Authority shown as a badge or rank will not insure respect or guarantee obedience to that authority. (Isa. 14:13-16; 3 John 9,10)
- f. God uses prepared people. Spiritual gifts, training, skills, and experience often bring people into positions of authority and leadership. (2 Tim. 2:15, 21-24)
- g. However, spiritual gifts, training, skills, or experience do not guarantee that God will give a person authority or leadership. (Gal. 3:2-4; 1 Cor. 9:26, 27)
- h. Authority and leadership in one field do not guarantee authority and leadership in another. (Eph. 4:11-13; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12)
- i. God allows unbelievers to be in authority over believers, and believers are to submit to their authority if: (1) no Bible doctrine is compromised, (2) idolatry is not involved, and (3) individual freedom and privacy to worship God is not denied. (1 Pet. 2:18-20)
- j. Good leadership always functions because the authority comes from God.