

## Introduction

“Authority” is used in all walks of life and should be learned at an early age. When parents tell a child to do this or that they are using parental authority. When the teacher tells a first grader to sit down, they are using authority. When the police officer pulls a driver over for speeding, they are using authority. Authority in these areas can be understood but it is not understood and used properly in the area of spiritual matters. Opinion, human wisdom, customs, and traditions have replaced “BIBLE AUTHORITY”. This study is a very important one that must be understood in light of God’s Divine Will. The Bible is the only standard of authority to be used in spiritual matters. Many have and do abuse their authority. ( i.e. police officers, governments, preachers, elders, bible class teachers ). Many under authority (subjects of authority) don’t always accept the rule of those in authority, thus we have the problems of division and conflict.

Individuals in authority are often called upon to make decisions affecting those under their authority. Whether one is a parent, CEO, manager, chief, teacher, preacher, or an elder God requires them to use authority with fairness, justice, and love. Consider and Study the context of Proverbs 29:14 *“The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever”*.

Bible Authority today is not based on Old Testament teachings, majority rule, your favorite preacher’s ideas or sermons, man authored creeds (written or unwritten), our consciences (feelings), etc. Using the New Testament as the standard of authority for all things pertaining to the New Testament Church will bring unity and growth. We must teach, speak, and preach the same things that we read about in the New Testament.

The Burden of proof is upon each of us involved in this study to provide “authority” for all things taught. Those affirming some practice as scriptural have the burden to provide authority for the practice. Those opposing a practice have the burden of proof to show how the practice violates New Testament authority and teaching. We must be good stewards of truth. 1 Peter 4:10 *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* Knowledge and understanding are gifts that we must use as good stewards. We must have the same attitude toward “authority” and “words” as Jesus. John 12:49–50 *“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”*

The importance of daily Bible reading, and study cannot be stressed enough. We must explore and evaluate all Bible studies with a sincere desire to know truth. John 8:32 *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* It is very important that we approach Bible study with an open mind. If a conclusion has already been formed in our hearts as to what we will believe and if we are unwilling to change, most likely the study will be unprofitable. A tendency to twist the context and teaching of a passage leads one to form wrong conclusions. 2 Peter 3:16–18 *“As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction,*

*as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."*

As we begin a study of "New Testament" authority, understand this is your class. Begin each session with prayer that God will grant a clear understanding with wisdom to apply the things learned. Open Your Bible and begin reading the text surrounding the topic of study. Please study before you arrive in class and be prepared and willing to take part in the discussions in class. If you are prepared before you arrive in class, we can better spend our class time together. Just know that your questions or comments may very possibly be the same as someone who won't ask or speak up. The class is not a place for arguments but rather an exchange of ideas. Please try and keep your questions and comments directed toward the subject being discussed. As Paul exhorted the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 14:40 "*Let all things be done decently and in order.*" Let all comments be expressed in love with a desire to arrive at truth. Let knowledge guide us toward better understanding with meekness, humility and love.

I commend you to a good study of the subject, "The Need for Authority for All Things Done and Taught by the New Testament Church". May God bless us as we study together.

Read and Study Your Bible Daily.

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