

Chapter 1

Matthew 28:18–20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Amen.

We must understand “authority” in order to properly “observe all things commanded”.

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

“In the Name of” and “by the Authority of” are the same thing.

Authority must be taught to all ages and re-taught when it is misunderstood. There is a great danger of error and false doctrine becoming a reality when each person lives or works according to their own ideas. Judges 21:25 Doing this led the people into error many times, over.

A good knowledge of authority and the acceptance of the proper authority is the grounds for unity.

The Greek word used for authority “exousia” as used in the New Testament is defined in several ways.

1. *exousia* (ἐξουσία, 1849) denotes “authority” (from the impersonal verb *exesti*, “it is lawful”). From the meaning of “leave or permission,” or liberty of doing as one pleases. It passed to that of “the ability or strength with which one is endowed,” then to that of the “power of authority,” the right to exercise power. W.E. Vines
2. **au•thor•i•ty** \ə-ˈthär-ə-tē, ò-, -ˈthòr-\ *noun*
plural **-ties** [Middle English *auctorite*, from Anglo-French *auctorité*, from Latin *auctoritatis*, *auctoritas* opinion, decision, power, from *auctor*] 13th century
(1): a citation (as from a book or file) used in defense or support
(2): the source from which the citation is drawn
(3): a conclusive statement or set of statements (as an official decision of a court)
(4): a decision taken as a precedent
(5): TESTIMONY
a: power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior
b: freedom granted by one in authority: RIGHT
c: persons in command *specifically:* GOVERNMENT
d: a governmental agency or corporation to administer a revenue-producing public enterprise <the transit *authority*>
> **synonym** see INFLUENCE, POWER

Webster Dictionary

3. Thayer's Greek English Lexicon gives these definitions:

1. "Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; leave or permission"
2. "Physical and mental power; the ability or strength with which one is endowed, which he either possesses or exercises"
3. "The power of authority (influence) and of right: Matt. 21:23"
 - "The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed, [generally translated authority]); . . . Matt. 28:18"

Authority has always been discussed in religious matter.

We must follow the rules as given in the Bible. 2 Tim. 2:1-7.

Please understand verse 5 of that context

"And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

Read:

Matt 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8

All authority in scriptural matters is based on the same statement:

"From Heaven or From Men".

Christ is the authority and head over the body, However the apostles were Commissioned and given the Holy Spirit to guide them into all things. The authority of the apostles (apostolic example) serves as scriptural authority to accept or reject.

Read and Study

John 16:12-15, 1 Cor 2:13-16

We must exercise caution that we do not bind where God has not bound.

Also, we must be careful not to release God's binding to allow things to be done simply because we want to do them.

We must also search and find the "pattern" used in the New Testament

Read Heb. 8:5-6, 1 Tim. 1:16, 2 Tim. 1:13

Pattern is defined as:

- a model or design used as a guide.
- a set of instructions to be followed
- an example for others to follow.

Following the pattern set forth in the New Testament often seems foolish to those wanting to do something in today's religious environment.

For example: If you want to attract young people you need to offer recreational activities. Where is the pattern?

Define the following words. They will be used in this class many times over. A clear and understandable definitions lead to less confusion and better understanding.

Commands:

Examples:

Inferences:

Necessary Inferences:

Expediency:

Incidentals:

Aids:

Collective Body:

Individual:

Work of the Church

Worship of the Church

Additions:

Words You would like to discuss:

- a.
- b.
- c.

As a beginning point for this study consider the following examples of how authority needs to be used and applied. These are in **no** order. These have been given me to discuss in this class. We will hopefully answer these in more depth details during this study.

Mark each example as you understand them **currently**. What type of authority is used to allow or disallowed the items below. PLEASE GIVE BIBLE VERSES that apply to each.

Also add to this list any you want to discuss.

1. The hiring of a local preacher.
2. The establishment of a bank account "common treasury".
3. The use of radio programs to teach the lost.
4. The use of black boards, charts, power points, etc. in the worship service.
5. Gospel Meeting during the week.
6. Religious Debates.
7. Common Meals out of the church funds and on Church property.
8. Buildings other than the main "CHURCH" building, (preacher's homes, Class. Buildings, Fellowship halls, ball courts)
9. The use of the buildings owned by the Church (collective body)
10. Song books, Pitch pipes (electronic devices to pitch the song)
11. Church camps, retreats, couples' classes, youth meetings.
12. Water Coolers (comfort items)
13. Indoor Baptistery. (Does it have to be large enough for two?)
14. Women Bible Class Teachers. (Maybe even WOMEN song leaders or Preachers)
15. Cover Dish gatherings.
16. Schools, Universities, and special meetings that teach the Bible.
17. The mechanical instrument of music used in worship.
18. Bible Classes (the no class practice)

Individual -vs- Collective Authority

The New Testament makes a distinction between what an individual is authorized to do and not do vs what the collective body “the Church” can do.

Some teach that whatever the individual can do the Church is authorized to do the same.

Each person has the individual responsibility to study and grow. Add to your “FAITH” the Christian graces. 2 Peter 1:5, Study to show yourself “approved”. 2 Tim 2:15.

The Church as the authority as the “pillar and ground of the truth”. 1 Tim 3:15.

The Church is authorized to assembly. Heb 10:25

The Church is to “come together”, 1 Cor 11: 18, 20, 33 to observe the Lord’s Super.
The individual is a part of that assembly and acts an individual when they examine themselves.
1 Cor. 11:28.

The parable of the talents shows the responsibility of the individual’s responsibility to use his “talents”.

The man (“father”) is given the authority to rule over the home and to raise the children. He is to rule over the home. The Church is not given the authority to “rule” the man’s home.

The Church takes the collective actions to collect funds. The individual determines for himself how much. 1 Cor. 16:2.

Elders have the collective authority to oversee the work of the local congregation. 1 Peter 5:2

We must recognize and apply authority to all areas.

- The chief priest recognized this need when they ask Jesus, “By What Authority”, Matt 21:23
- Jesus understood the need for authority. When He gave the great commission. Matt. 28:18-20.
- The Apostles understood the power of example and authority. 2 Thess. 3:6-9.
- Paul discussed the purpose of authority. 2 Cor 10:7-8, 2 Cor 13:10

Those who reject authority are considered to be “presumptuous and self-willed”. 2 Peter 2:10.

We must have Bible Authority for all things related to spiritual matters. Failure to walk by authority denies the all sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures.

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS REVIEW

1. Why is authority important to our daily lives?
2. Define authority.
3. How does authority differ from self-approval?
4. What authority does Christ have and who gave it to Him?
5. What authority did the Apostles have and how did they get that authority?
6. What type of authority is established when a “pattern” is followed?
Give Bible Examples
7. Does the outcome of a project prove or disprove the authority by which it was undertaken or completed?
8. What does having an example do for with following authority?
9. Do “traditions” of men give us authority for doing things in the area of religion?
10. If the God reveals to us what and how to do something does God also have to tell us what not do?