

## By What Standard of Authority?

### *By House to House Heart to Heart*

By what authority do you and I practice the things we do in religion? Consider the following questions:

Is the **majority** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. Where was the majority in the flood? What about Sodom and Gomorrah? Jesus said many travel the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13–14).

Are **kinsmen** the correct standard of authority? Surely not. If they were, then every religion, even those that deny the divinity of Christ and reject the Bible as the infallible guide in religion, would be acceptable if accepted by kinsmen.

Are the **creeds** of men the correct standard of authority? Surely not. They are contradictory to the infallible Word of God. They contain the doctrines and commandments of men, concerning which Jesus said, “In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

Is “**I think**” the correct standard of authority? Surely not. Jeremiah wrote, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Also observe: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

**Christ and His testament** give us the correct standard of authority. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ (Matthew 28:18). His testament is complete, final, and all-sufficient (John 16:13; Jude 1:3). Religious practices are to be based on His Word. Peter wrote, “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11). In view of this, can you give book, chapter, and verse for what you practice in religion? —Wendell Winkler

**“By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”  
Matthew 21:23**

## AUTHORITY

ALL AUTHORITY IN  
HEAVEN AND ON  
EARTH HAS BEEN  
GIVEN TO ME.  
GO THEREFORE  
AND MAKE  
DISCIPLES OF ALL  
NATIONS

Matthew 28:18

## Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Tiffany Pleasant is enduring chemo treatments every two weeks.
- ♦ Dorlene Butler is coping with her Parkinson's diagnosis.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Larry Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Louise Patterson.
- ♦ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven, West Plains.

### Sentence Sermons

- ✚ A little sin will add to your trouble, subtract from your energy, and multiply your difficulties.
- ✚ A big fall begins with a little stumble.
- ✚ Sin has two great powers; it reigns and it ruins.
- ✚ Sin is not a toy; it is a tyrant.
- ✚ Little sins add up to big trouble.
- ✚ There is no sin so little as not to kindle an eternal fire.
- ✚ Freedom is not the right to do as you will, but the power to do as you should.  
—Mark Posey

DON'T LOSE SIGHT  
OF WHO CHRIST IS:

*JESUS*

IS OUR  
PRINCE OF PEACE

THERE IS POWER  
IN THE NAME OF  
*JESUS*

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
12-6	Don Luna	11-30	Harold and Mary Ann Reynolds
12-9	Pat Kirkland	12-9	Bill and Lana Cockrum
12-9	Jim Lane	12-31	Don and Karin Reynolds
12-13	Dale Strong	Birthdays	
12-13	Hope Hillhouse	12-15	Dana Crisp
12-14	Corey Hillhouse	12-25	Jessica Smith
12-21	Kim Anderson	12-27	Granger Stevens
12-14	Joe Walrath		

Barbara is serving chicken and noodles, green beans, salad, jello, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before the Christmas play.

Date	Event	Details
Today after church	Wreath Making— \$10, See Bethany Snider or Debra Lane	Bring ribbon and ornaments to decorate.
Wednesday night December 18	Christmas Play. Come watch the children.	Cookies and hot chocolate downstairs after the play.

The longer the tea bag sits in the cup, the stronger the tea. The longer you sit in God's word, the stronger your faith.

### December Worship Assignments

#### Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

15 John Abraham  
22 Mark Lane  
29 David Stevens

#### Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp  
Dylan Abraham  
D. E. Pleasant

**Song Leader: Titus Smith**  
**Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp**

## The Family News

December 15, 2024

### Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

[www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org)

### A Place to Call Home

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***The Authority of Jesus***

#### Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

#### Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#264, *Come Let Us Adore Him*

#266, *Majesty*; #694, *Servant Song*

#475, *Glory to His Name*; Communion Service

#678, *More About Jesus*

Sermon and Invitation

#907, *Hark, the Gentle Voice*

#738, *Take the Name of Jesus with You*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

*We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.*

#### **Elders**

Mark Lane 417-679-4835  
Don Luna 417-712-1945  
David Stevens 417-679-4700  
John Abraham 870-421-5632

#### **Deacons**

Larry Butler 817-504-1604  
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090  
James Langston 870-315-4355

#### **Preacher**

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880