

Authority: Part 1

Guiding Question

Where does authority come from?

Verses:

Matt. 21:23-27

Mark 1:22,27

Mark 2:10

John 10

Acts 1:7

I Cor. 9:3-7

Terms:

Authority

Delegate

Interpret

Reason

Logic

1. Find three English definitions for the word “authority”.
2. List other verses that demonstrate that:
 - a. God is the **source** of all authority
e.g. Rom 13:1
 - b. Jesus **demonstrates** qualifications of authority
e.g. John 10:18
 - c. Others **acted** on the basis of granted authority
e.g. II Cor. 13:10.
3. Consider the question Jesus ask the Pharisees in Matt 21:23-27. What are the implications of Jesus’ two choices.
4. Why would an ultimate authority have to be holy, pure, and just? What would be some consequences if they did not possess those attributes?
5. If God is the ultimate authority, how has He communicated His will to those under His authority?
6. Is the way we read, interpret, and obey the Bible a statement about our attitude toward its author?
7. What was the Jews’ primary objection to Jesus in John 10?

Was it possible for them to know, by direct experience, that Jesus was one with the Father, or did they need to come to this conclusion some other way?

How did Jesus suggest they decide on whether to accept His testimony as authoritative? (see vs 25, 37, 38)

Authority: Part 2

Guiding Question

How does our authority communicate His will?

Verses:

Gal 3:24

Rom 15:4

John 5:46

Lev 10:1,2

Matt 4:1-10

Terms:

Pattern

Example

Profitable

Command

1. For whom were the writings of the Old Testament specifically intended? (Deut 5:1-3; Rom 3:1,2)

What is the intended scope of New Testament teaching? (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 10:34-36)

What value is the Old Testament record to us? (Gal 3:24-25; I Cor. 10:6,11; Rom 15:4)

2. Was there to be a variation in the Law, or the way it was kept, as culture, government, and circumstances changed?
3. What did Jesus say was His relationship to the law? (John 5:46; Luke 4:17-21; Matt 5:17)
4. What was Jesus' view of the Old Testament?
 - a. Luke 24:27,44
 - b. Matt 5:18
 - c. John 5:45-47
 - d. Mark 10:17-19
5. What was the New Testament writers' view of the Old Testament?
 - a. II Tim 3:14-16; Rom. 15:4
 - b. Rom 3:21
 - c. Acts 17:2,3; II Peter 3:6
 - d. I Pet 1:21; II Pet 1:19-21; Heb 1:1
6. What are the New Testament claims for itself?
 - a. John 14
 - b. Heb 2:3,4
 - c. Eph 3:3-5
 - d. II Pet 3:15,16
 - e. I Tim 4:1; II Thess 3:6

Authority: Part 3

Guiding Question

Is it possible to determine exactly what our authority expects of us?

Verses:

Matt 4:1-10

Matt 9:11-13

Matt 22:31-40

Acts 11:1-18

Acts 15:1-29

Terms:

Principles

Postulates

Establish

Practice

1. Read Matt 4:1-10. What was the first temptation? (vs 1-4) Would it have appeared to be a “good work”? (compare to Matt 14:17-21)

Jesus quoted Deut. 8:2,3 as His authority to refuse. Does Deut. 8 deal with people’s behavior when they are hungry? What was the context? What principles are established by that text?

2. Describe the second temptation (vs 5-7). Satan quoted Ps 91:11,12. Does that passage appear to prove that leaping from the temple was not dangerous? What was the context of the promise of protection? What error did Satan make in establishing authority?

Jesus quoted Deut 6:16 as His authority to refuse. What prohibition is given in that passage? What illustration is given? (see Ex 17:3-7) What principle is established by this scripture? How was it relevant to the 2nd temptation?

3. What was the proposal in the third temptation? How would Jesus have benefitted? Could this have been an easier way for Jesus to accomplish His mission? (Matt 28:18)

Jesus quotes Deut 6:10--Is this a direct command? Was it given to Jesus personally? How was it relevant?

4. Read Acts 11:1-18. Of what was Peter accused? (vs 2,3) Was there direct revelation from God on the issue? (vs 9) What conclusion had Peter drawn from the vision and later events? (vs 12, and see Acts 10:20, 28) What other evidence of God’s approval was given? (Acts 11:14,15,17)

Guiding Question

Is it possible to determine exactly what our authority expects of us?

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Terms:

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5. Read Acts 15:1-29. What question about the Gentiles had arisen? (v 5) How did Peter argue against requiring circumcision? (vs 7-9) Was it important what had not been required of Cornelius? (see v 9) What proof did Paul and Barnabas offer?

Was this reasoning based on specific commands or conclusions drawn from God's past dealings? What did the prophecy quoted by James (vs 16-18) add? What judgment was exercised in vs 22?

6. Do you see in the above examples evidence of Christians:
- Using God's revelation through the apostles to determine practice for all Christians?
 - Using the apostle's actions, when God's approval was clear, to validate teaching and practice?
 - Being reluctant to declare God's will on a matter in the absence of revelation?
 - Concluding based on a collection of facts from various sources?
 - Combining inference, examples, and direct statements to arrive at truth?
 - Propagating truth as authoritative to Christians in other countries and cultures?
7. How did the Apostles intend for the early churches to establish their practices? (I Thess 4:1,2; Phil 4:9; I Thess 2:13,14; II Thess 2:15; I Tim 3:14,15) What efforts were made to ensure consistent compliance? (I Cor 4:16,17a; Tit 1:5; I Cor 11:33,34)
8. Were the instructions and patterns expected to be consistent among all Christians? (I Cor 16:1; I Cor 14:33b; I Cor 4:17b; Col 4:16; I Cor 11:16)
9. What was the attitude and action toward those who altered the pattern of instructions? (II Thess 3:6,14; I Tim 4:1; Gal 1:6-9; I Cor 14:36,37)