

UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY

SOH - Lesson 8

I. Authority Defined:

- A. New Webster Dictionary
 - 1. expert
 - 2. power to influence (thoughts or behavior)
 - 3. right - freedom granted
 - 4. government - persons in command
- B. Greek - (Exousia)
 - 1. privilege (force, competency, freedom)
 - 2. as a token of control (potentate, magistrate)
 - 3. delegated influence (liberty, jurisdiction, right).

II. Restoration of Authority

- A. The beginning of creation.
 - 1. God gave Adam authority.
Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:16-20

That authority was like God's. (Psalm 82:6)
 - 2. Adam forfeits his authority to Satan.
II Corinthians 4:4
Genesis 2:17, 3:6-15
Luke 4:5-8
- B. Believers' Authority Restored
 - 1. Jesus born as a man.
Luke 1:26-38
 - 2. Jesus stood on earth in righteous authority.
Isaiah 9:6-7
Colossians 2:15
 - 3. Jesus' authority delegated to the believer.
Matthew 16:19, 18:18-19
Luke 10:19
Mark 16:19

III. Levels of Authority

Heaven is operated under a principle of authority.

Everyone is subject to authority, even God, Himself, is subject to His Word.

Romans 13:1-8 declares that all offices of authority are ordained by God. The authority rests in the office.

A. God (and His Word) - Supreme Authority

- 1. God's authority is qualified and contained in His Word
Hebrews 6:17-18
Titus 1:2
- 2. God is the author of authority
Romans 13:1-8
Ephesians 1:20-23
- 3. Sove"reign"ty of God is in the operation of the laws of God.

B. The Higher Powers

UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY

1. Veracious authority - **truth** (accurate)
 - a. **God** is everything **He** says **He** is.
John 8:32
John 14:6
 - b. Everything in the Bible is **truly** stated
 - c. But not everything in the Bible is the **truth**.
Job 1:21
II Timothy 2:15

The Word of God is given to correct us in the **truth**. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

2. Authority of conscience
 - a. Whatsoever is not of **faith** is **sin**.
Romans 13:1-5
Romans 2:12-16
Romans 14:17-23
 - b. Conscience - co-science or two knowledges knowledge **without** and knowledge **within**
- C. Lower levels of authority
 1. **delegated** authority
 - a. authority entrusted to another (handed to another by a superior).
 - b. Hebrews 13:17 ; II Corinthians 5:20
 - c. proceeds only out of **responsibility**
 - d. **never** exceeds your responsibility
 2. **stipulated** authority
 - a. authority **based** on a **condition** in an agreement
 - b. Genesis 29:18-21
 - c. If **conditions** are violated then the authority is **revoked**.
 - d. **permission** by condition
 3. **customary** authority
 - a. authority based on a **common** practice
 - b. Genesis 29:22-27
Matthew 15:1-9
 - c. This type of authority can be **easily used** to **violate** higher authority.
 4. **functional** authority
 - a. authority based on service, operation, and work
 - b. Ephesians 4:7-12
II Corinthians 12:11, 14, 18
 - c. God **imparts** **operational** authority through the **gifts** and **calls** He gives us.
 - d. This authority is **subject** and **interconnected** with the over all authority chain.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Authority comes three ways:
 1. **birth**
 2. **training**
 3. **impartment**
- B. Faith is an authority
 1. Matthew 8:5-13
 2. We **step out** of **faith** when we **violate** God's **chain of authority**.
 3. I Chronicles 16:22; Psalm 105:15
- C. Any attempt to overthrow a higher level of authority with a lower level is **rebellion**. (Higher authorities must be appealed to. Romans 8:2)