

# AUTHORITY in the CHURCH – Part One

We serve a God of order. He has made it clear in His Word how authority is to be set up in our homes, in our governments and in our churches.

## **AUTHORITY in the HOME:**

**Ephesians 5:22** - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body (the church).

## **AUTHORITY in the GOVERNMENT:**

**Psalms 22:28** - For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and He *is* the governor among the nations (He rules over the nations).

In the OT God used Moses' father-in-law to help him split the burden of judging the people. (Exodus 18) Then we see that Israel was ruled by judges for a time. Finally, Israel wanted a king to rule them just like all the other nations had. God was supposed to be their King and they rejected His rule and instead wanted a man placed over them. (1 Samuel 8:7)

All authority comes from God. He is always in full control of everything that is going on.

**Romans 13:1-2** – Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (governing authorities). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power (authority), resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation (judgment or will be punished).

When those in power are requiring things that go against God, we know we always side with God and obey Him no matter what. That applies to the home, to the government and to the church.



We see this in Acts when Peter and the other apostles were being told by the religious leaders not to teach in the name of Jesus.

**Acts 5:29** – Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men (we must obey God rather than men).

Those religious leaders thought they were finished with Jesus when they had Him crucified. But now there was a new problem, His church was on the move and miracles were being done and bonds being broken in the name of Jesus and they wanted to put a stop to it. We will have crooked people in power today.

### **AUTHORITY in the CHURCH:**

The apostles and elders established the early churches.

**Acts 14:23** – And when they had ordained (chosen / appointed) them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord (entrusted them to the Lord), on Whom they believed.

**Acts 16:4** –And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained (that were made) of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

**1 Timothy 1:18** - This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee (based on the prophetic words spoken

about you earlier), that thou by them (so that in recalling them you) mightest war a good warfare;

**2 Timothy 1:5-6** - When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith (sincere faith) that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also (lives in you also). Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

So we see that Paul ordained Timothy because he knew he had faith and had been prophesied over as well.

**1 Timothy 3:1-7** – This *is* a true saying, If a man (anyone, someone, whoever) desire the office of a bishop (church leader / overseer), he desireth a good work. A bishop (church leader / overseer) then must be blameless (above reproach), the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre (not a lover of money); but patient, not a brawler (not a fighter), not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (see that his children obey and respect him); (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice (a new believer), lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without (outside the church); lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Titus 1:5-9** - For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting (unfinished), and ordain elders (Pastors / spiritual leaders) in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children (children that believe) not accused of riot or unruly (wild and rebellious). For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God (overseer of God's house); not self willed (self absorbent / arrogant), not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre (not dishonest with money / not pursuing dishonest gain); But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men (men is not in other translations), sober, just, holy, temperate (self controlled); Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be

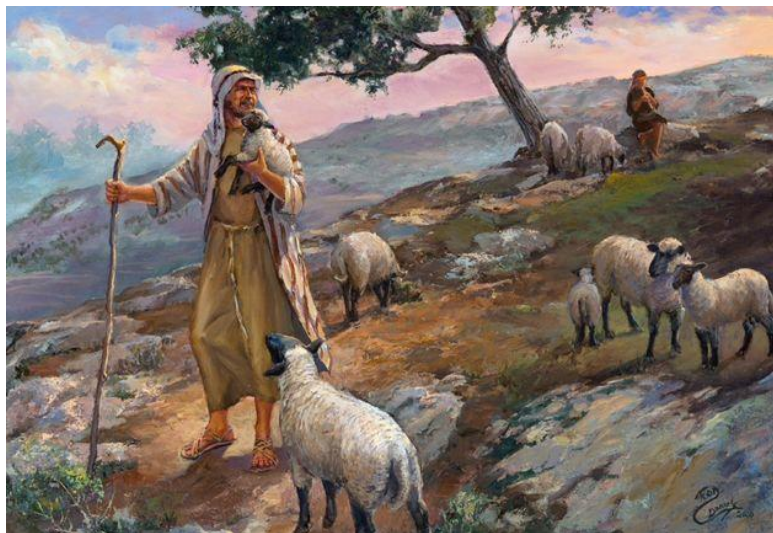
able by sound doctrine both to exhort (encourage) and to convince the gainsayers  
I (refute those opposing it).

**2 Timothy 2:2** - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses  
(the things you have heard me say among many witnesses), the same commit  
thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

**\*\*So we see they searched out FAITHFUL MEN to Pastor and teach the  
churches.\*\***

When there are disputes in the church there is a proper way to handle them.

**Matt. 18:15-19** - Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee (sin against  
you), go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee  
(listens and confesses it), thou hast gained thy brother (won them back). But if he  
will not hear *thee*, *then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two  
or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear  
them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto  
thee as an heathen man (a pagan) and a publican (tax collector). Verily I say unto  
you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever  
ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two  
of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be  
done for them of My Father which is in heaven.



Pastors are to tend to the flock. Keep them together, protect them from the wolves and warn them about sinful things they see in their lives.

**Titus 3:10** – A man that is an heretic (causing divisions) after the first and second admonition reject (keep out / have nothing more to do with them); Knowing that he that is such is subverted (warped / have turned away from the truth), and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

If this were truly happening in the church today there would not be any mega churches. Today people want their ears tickled and they want to be entertained but they do not want to be taught and told about sin or repentance or obedience.

### **RESPECT GOD'S APPOINTED AUTHORITY:**

**1 Thess. 5:12** – And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord (your leaders in the Lord's work), and admonish you (teach you); And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake (show them high regard in love for their work's sake). And be at peace among yourselves.

**1 Tim. 5:17-18** – Let the elders that rule well (conduct the affairs of the church well) be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the Word and doctrine (preaching and teaching). For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn (grain). And, The laborer is worthy of his reward (deserves his wages).

There are some who decide they will stop tithing and giving so that they will hurt the church in this way. God keeps books on everything we do and this is a sin against Him and against His Word. In the beginning God set up the Tabernacle and the priestly line and all was supported by the people. Then when they built a Temple it also was supported in the same way. Today, we are the temple and house the Holy Spirit inside of us but there is still work to be done and God still expects His ministries to be supported. The tithe (which means tenth) belongs to God and is given to the house of God that He has called you to where you are spiritually fed. In addition to tithing you are to give as you are led to by the Holy Spirit. All tithing and giving should be done cheerfully otherwise you should not

even bother because God is not counting it to your credit, in other words He is not bestowing His blessing on you because of it and you are not laying up treasures because of what you begrudging give. He loves a cheerful giver.

God never meant for Pastors to be having to work full time jobs in addition to trying to tend to the flock. Paul did not receive from the Corinthian church but he did receive from other churches at different times to meet his needs. Also I want to point something out that many fail to understand. For many people, money is an idol to them. They don't want the pastor to talk about money, and they don't have a heart to give. So if the subject of money comes up or tithing or giving or what have you, they start saying, "well you aren't supposed to be charging." Let me explain that real quick. Those that teach and preach the gospel do it freely without charge. It was received freely and we administer it freely. So we don't charge for our ministering, we don't put a price on the work that we do. The part of the church or congregation is to see to it that they take care of the pastor and the church.

## **CLOSING**

Paul continues:

**1 Tim. 5:19-20** - Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all (reprove before all), that others also may fear (take warning).

It is a very serious thing to accuse your Pastor of something. But the Pastor is not above rebuke if he is in sin or has strayed from God's Word. Today, people decide they don't like the way the Pastor preaches, or don't like him for personal reasons and figure they will just vote him out. That's not in God's Word. If the Pastor is not in sin and is doing all things according to God's Word then there is no basis for "voting" him out.

Someone who is fully submitted to God will have respect for the Pastor and leaders of the church. If they are preaching God's Word and living righteous lives, those listening must obey the Word of God. We are to be doers of God's Word and not just hearers only.

## **PRAYER**