

AUTHORITY in the CHURCH – Part Two

Last week I gave the Scripture about the elders/pastors who rule well being worthy of double honor. I just want you to know for those of you who are standing with and supporting this ministry, that you are in fact honoring 3 pastors!

I originally prepared this message for another church. It's been more than a year ago now since I was invited to speak at that church and this is one of the messages I ministered there. The pastor is a friend of ours and was having trouble in his church. The former pastor got married and moved away. So the church decided they did not want to submit to the new pastor who had been trained up by the former pastor. There was one lady who wanted to be the preacher. She is in her 70's and as far as I know had never taught or ministered anywhere. Another man was trying to control the new pastor with his money, making threats. It was a real mess. So many hurtful things were going on at that time.

Some churches only have a pastor and some also have deacons and overseers that help the pastor. Let's look real quick at what the Bible says the requirements are for a deacon.

1 Tim.3:8-13 – Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave (worthy of respect), not doubletongued (sincere / have integrity), not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre (not seeking dishonest gain); Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved (tested); then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. Even so *must their wives be* grave (respected), not slanderers, sober (temperate or self controlled), faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well (those that serve well) purchase to themselves a good degree (respect of others), and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The list of characteristics for a deacon is very similar to those for the bishop. Church leaders are to be people of faith living righteous and respectable lives. Where it says “even so must their wives be grave” and goes on from there. The translations are split there. Some say “the women” and some say “the wives” and a few say “deaconesses.” I thought that was interesting.

If you are sitting there and holding unforgiveness or bitterness or anything against the Pastor and you think it is ok to shout him down or not be in subjection to him or her, then you are in sin and are against God Himself. God has set forth order in the church. You don't have a free pass to be ugly to the Pastor just because he may not be doing things the way you want.

This next passage of Scripture is about a time when the Israelites had been delivered out of Egypt and were wandering in the wilderness and complaining because they didn't have meat to eat. They were complaining against Moses and the leadership.

Exodus 16:8 - And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat (meat to eat), and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him (your grumbling against Him): and what *are* we? your murmurings (grumbings) *are* not against us, but against the LORD.

Numbers 12:1-14 - And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman (Cushite woman) whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman (Cushite woman). And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath He not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard *it*. (Now the man Moses *was* very meek (very humble), above all the men (more than all the men) which *were* upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And He said, Hear now My words: If there be a prophet among you, *I* the LORD will make Myself known unto him in a vision, *and* will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses *is* not so (but not so

with My servant Moses), who *is* faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth (face to face), even apparently (clearly), and not in dark speeches (not in riddles); and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold (he sees the form of the Lord): wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them (the anger of the Lord burned against them or He was very angry with them); and He departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam *became* leprous, *white* as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, *she was* leprous. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb (a stillborn baby already decayed at birth). And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee (I beg Thee). And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days (disgraced for 7 days or defiled for 7 days)? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in *again*.

Be very careful not to speak against God's truly anointed ministers. As Christians we need to be careful not to speak against other Christians either. For they too carry the Holy Spirit inside of them and they are under the blood of Christ and carry God's anointing on their lives too. My old pastor used to say that he did not want to be guilty of beating up Jesus' bride. Let us not be guilty of that either.

So we just learned that when a pastor or minister is truly serving the Lord and you complain about them or talk bad about them or fight with them that you are actually coming against God Himself. For those righteous pastors are standing and ministering at the Lord's altar and they look to Him to lead and guide them.

If you have a problem with something, you can sit down with him and talk respectfully and you can also pray. If you know you are praying in accordance with God's will and not your own selfish desires, then He will answer that prayer and you will see change. It was never God's will for people to leave the church over disputes and go seek a new church. If He called you to a church and the

Pastor is preaching God's Word and living a righteous life, then you are to remain there submitted to the authority in that church until God tells you otherwise. Disagreements are to be worked out in love according to God's Word.

Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another (encouraging one another)*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

I have said this before but it bears repeating. If you cannot find a true church, then you are not forsaking the assembling by not going to whatever apostate church is near you. If you are fed spiritually by this ministry, then you should consider it your church. You can meet with your family in your own home and listen weekly to the message, offer up praise and worship through singing to the Lord and pray together. That is church. You can also invite others to join in your house fellowship. If you don't have family that wants to join you or anyone else, then praise God at least you can learn and grow through this online ministry. You can still do great things for Gods Kingdom by standing with this ministry.

Did you know when you submit to your Pastor and work with him and not against him then you are ultimately submitting to God and His Will for your life.

Remember last week when I was sharing about how God never intended His ministers to be doing anything else. He never intended them to be working full time jobs and trying to see to the church also. Let's look at that in Scripture:

Acts 6:1-7 - And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring (complaining) of the Grecians against the Hebrews (Greek speaking believers against the Hebrew speaking believers), because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations (daily distribution of food). Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason (right) that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report (choose seven honest men), full of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and

they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit), and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch (an earlier convert to Judaism): Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them. And the word of God increased (the Word of God spread); and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company (number) of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Why do we see the apostate churches overflowing with money and those false teachers certainly don't work other jobs. But yet so many of God's true churches are barely making ends meet and having to split their time between worldly jobs and God's work.

CLOSING

James 3:1 - My brethren, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation (those who teach will be judged more strictly).

Pastors and teachers will answer to a stricter judgment. The Pastor and leaders in the church are accountable to God. **No one is above rebuke and correction if they stray away from the Word of God.** I know that I will have a harder judgment to face because of the responsibility that God has placed on me.

Think about how you treat your Pastor, knowing that they understand the seriousness of what God has called them to do, if they are being faithful in their ministering. Pastoring and teaching is not a light thing in God's eyes. Remember that God says those that do it well are worthy of double honor.

PRAYER