

## AUTHORITY in the CHURCH – Part Three

**1 Tim.5:22** – Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins (do not share in the sins of others): keep thyself pure.

This is Paul talking to Timothy, his spiritual son in the faith. No church should be quick to ordain or choose church leadership. That includes reinstating someone back into the ministry or allowing someone back into the church after having been thrown out. Let's look at some commentaries on this Scripture:

### Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

(22) **Lay hands suddenly on no man.**--This command refers primarily to the solemn laying on of hands at the ordination of presbyters and deacons. It no doubt also includes the "laying on of hands" customary, apparently, even in the Apostolic age, on the absolution of penitents and their re-admission to church fellowship.

**Neither be partaker of other men's sins.**--By thus negligently admitting into the ministry unfit persons--by carelessly and without due caution readmitting persons to a church fellowship, which by their evil life they had forfeited--Timothy would incur a grave responsibility, would in fact "be a partaker" in the sins and errors committed by those men, some of whom he had carelessly placed in important positions in the church, others of whom he had restored to communion before they had given sufficient evidence of their repentance.

**Keep thyself pure.**--The word "pure" here has a broad and inclusive signification. It, of course, denotes the urgent necessity of one holding Timothy's high and responsible office being pure and chaste in word and deed and thought; but here it also presses on the chief presbyter of Ephesus the imperative necessity of keeping himself, by ceaseless watchfulness, pure from all reproach in the matter of selecting candidates for the ministry, or in the restoring of the lapsed sinners to church fellowship.

### [Pulpit Commentary](#)

The solemn injunction in the **preceding** verse, to deal impartially in judging even the most influential elder, naturally suggests the caution not to be hasty in

ordaining any one to be an elder. Great care and previous inquiry were necessary before admitting any man, whatever might be his pretensions or position, to a holy office. A bishop who, on the spur of the moment, with improper haste, should ordain those who afterwards required reproof as ἁμαρτάνων, sinning (ver. 20), would have a partnership in the man's sin, and in the evil consequences that flowed from it. And then it follows, Keep thyself pure; i.e. clear and guiltless ([2 Corinthians 7:11](#)), which he would not be if he was involved in the sin of the guilty elder. Observe that the stress is upon "thyself."

**1 Peter 5:1-3** - The elders (pastors or spiritual leaders) which are among you I exhort (encourage), who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint (not because you must or have to), but willingly; not for filthy lucre (not for dishonest gain), but of a ready mind (eager to serve); Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage (not lording it over them), but being ensamples (examples) to the flock.

It is a serious calling and responsibility to be a pastor or a leader in the church. If a Pastor or leader is found to be disregarding God's Word and they will not repent then they should be removed from office. If the Pastor is in a position that he cannot be put out of that church, then the congregation is free to leave with a clear conscience before God. But we are to handle all things according to God's Word and talk all things over before we take any action. We will all answer to God for our part within the church.

**Titus 2:15** - These things speak, and exhort (encourage), and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee (Let no man disregard what you say / Let no man make light of your authority).

A true pastor will teach God's Word and call out sin. If they are living a righteous life according to God's Word then no man will have a reason to despise them. When your pastor gives you counsel or advice it is to be taken seriously. They pray and seek the Lord and study His word and ask Him to lead them in their ministering. You are to heed their teachings, counsel and Godly advice. There are

a lot of people who are jealous of church leadership thinking they should be leading the church or that they know more than the pastor or the leaders. And that might be the case. But God will work through the ones He has called and anointed to lead in that particular church.

**2 Tim. 3:16-17** - All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine (useful for teaching), for reproof (rebuking), for correction (of doctrinal errors), for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect (That the servant of God may be complete), thoroughly furnished unto all good works (thoroughly equipped unto all good works).

A Pastor is to correct those who have doctrinal errors or are living in sin and remove those from the flock that refuse to repent so as to protect the flock that God has called him to shepherd. I do not leave comments up on facebook or youtube that could lead someone astray or unsound Biblical comments. As best I can I remove them. Now I know youtube and fb are government agencies and they go around me and let comments through that I never see. They scramble the order of things so that you cannot find the new comments and play games to get their infiltration through. When you read comments, if you decide to listen to them then that is on you because I am giving the teaching or making the posts. I have seen others try to comment in such a way they are trying to override what was taught. Be careful who and what you listen to. Test the spirits.

It's not easy to talk to people about their sin or lack of fear and reverence for the LORD. I talked to a couple about this. I told the man that I was worried about his salvation. He told me he wasn't worried, he said he knew he was saved. Look how serious a thing that was and how what I said was just dismissed.

**Luke 12:48:b** – For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:

If the Pastor or church leadership is living in sin or secret sin then the flock will suffer attacks because of it. The door is being left open for satan to come in and cause havoc in his life and in the church. Others may see what he is doing and do the same things and thereby he will have led them into sin. If the church

leadership sins then those under their authority will suffer. It matters what church you choose and how they adhere to the Word of God.

Just like the high priest in the OT first made a sacrifice for the sins of himself and his family and then made one for the nation of Israel. The leaders of the church will be judged individually for how they lived their lives as well as give an account for how well they handled their position within the church.

Within the flock there may be some who are more spiritually mature and if they are humble they can be a support to the Pastor and leadership of the church. There will be new Christians and different levels of growth within the church. The Pastor is to keep teaching and admonishing the flock and watch over the flock and guard them and warn them against sin.

Before we left our last church one of the Deacons asked us if we wanted to sit down and talk because we need to be sure everything is right before the LORD. We should always keep this in mind when we are upset at the church and thinking of going to another church or leaving the church altogether.

God never intended for us to be church hopping or threatening the Pastor in such a way that if he doesn't do what you want him to then you will leave and go somewhere else. You'll show him. This is also how church splits and divisions happen. Someone gets upset and begins to try and turn others to their way of thinking and instead of discussing it with the leadership of the church they go on and create a division.

Many churches have closed because of jealousy and pride. And sometimes the people decide to "starve out" the pastor. Meaning they quit tithing and giving hoping to run him off. If he is in right standing with God then they are doing that against God Himself and they will answer for that.

**Romans 15:5-6** - Now the God of patience (endurance) and consolation (encouragement) grant you to be likeminded (in agreement or in harmony) one toward another according to Christ Jesus (like Christ Jesus): That ye may with one mind (all in agreement) *and* one mouth (all saying the same thing) glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are all supposed to be in agreement of the Scriptures, learning and growing and praising and worshipping God in harmony. The Pastor and leadership is to serve and have a servant's heart not to exalt himself or themselves.

**Acts 1:14** - These all continued with one accord (these all joined together in agreement) in prayer and supplication (asking humbly or earnestly), with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren (Jesus' brothers).

How will we do this if there is discord, arguing, unforgiveness, bitterness, pride and even sin in the church?

**Heb. 12:14** - Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

We are to be a peaceful people. We are not to be arguing and fighting within the body of Christ. God said for us to be holy for He is holy. (1 Peter 1:16)

**Heb. 13:17** – Obey them that have the rule over you (your spiritual leaders), and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account (to God), that they may do it with joy (do this so that their work will be a joy / give them reason to do this with joy), and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you (not to your benefit).

Are you submitted to your Pastor cheerfully? Are you making your pastor's job hard or are you pleasant to shepherd? Are you doing your part to learn and grow and live an obedient life?

**Gal.4:19** - My little children (my dear children), of whom I travail in birth again (I am again in the pains of childbirth) until Christ be formed in you,

#### [New Living Translation](#)

**Gal.4:19** - Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.

A real and true pastor strives to have their congregation understand salvation, and obedience and God's Word. They really warn against sin and the things they

see in a person's life that are trouble and problems to them in striving to live a righteous life.

I want to say about this ministry. It is unique in that it is mostly an online ministry. I praise God that we are reaching people all around the world. If you are new to this ministry I recommend that you watch the "New Christian Basics" teaching. From there I recommend that you listen to the message that comes out each week and as you have time go back and listen to all of the messages. God has blessed us to be able to house the messages online even since the beginning of this ministry. You will learn so much and grow from listening to them. That's what they are there for. To help the flock that God has entrusted to this ministry to learn and grow up in Christ and in their faith. If you consider yourself part of this ministry, I encourage you to work your way through all of the messages.

I praise God that the messages are available any time no matter when you come to this ministry. It's not like the local church where if you miss a Sunday then you have no idea what lesson the pastor taught. With our ministry, no matter when God draws you to it, you can benefit from all the messages that have been from the beginning up to this point.

You should have reverence for your pastor. If you do not have reverence for them then you will not be able to receive from them. The anointing flows from Christ onto His undershepherd and then out to the flock.

## **CLOSING**

Can you receive instruction, correction and reproof from your pastor? Is your pastor a true man or woman of God? Do they meet the requirements spelled out in the Bible and are they living a righteous life? Be sure you are not submitted to an apostate pastor.

God has ordained His anointing to flow from the top down and He has order in the church. You are to be submitted to your pastor. Many times when I don't agree with someone on some issue, or I don't say what they want to hear, then they leave this ministry. There can be many reasons for that: not truly saved, not growing, pride etc. Some of you out there have churches that you attend and so

this ministry is not considered your church home. You are still to reverence God's ministers even in other churches. I know pastors that aren't my pastor and when I speak to them I still call them a pastor. I acknowledge that they are called by God to that position and show respect.

I cannot tell you enough how horribly I have been treated. People today don't think anything of smarting off and being rude. It is amazing to me, how simple respect is lacking. I was raised with manners and morals and even if I thought my pastor was doing a horrible job I would never tell him. Even if I didn't think he gave me the best answers about different things I never was ugly or disrespectful. Seriously think before you speak because God doesn't take any of this lightly. You can be bringing His judgment on yourself because of how you are treating His ministers.

If I have a disagreement with another pastor, I am still reverent to them. Sometimes you have to take time to pray over a matter or a question and dig deeper into God's Word and then come together again to discuss it further.

If your pastor cannot answer all of your questions satisfactorily, be patient. Sometimes it is a matter of needing to grow in your Christian faith. Keep it in prayer, keep seeking God to give you peace or explain it so that it makes sense to you. And remember that none of us know it all no matter how much we study and pray. They shouldn't have a problem telling you they honestly don't know if they truly don't know. But that you both can pray and seek God on it.

It is God's right to reveal what He wants to reveal and keep secret what He doesn't choose for us to know.

**Prov.25:2** - *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.*

**Deut.29:29** - *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

### New Living Translation

**Deut.29:29** - "The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

**Jer.33:3** - Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things (unsearchable things or hidden things), which thou knowest not.

I have prayed the last Scripture a lot. I would say with the things God has me exposing through this ministry that He certainly has shown me so many hidden things that I had no clue about. Praise God He woke me up and many of you also!

And remember even your pastor is growing all the time. Let's be Christlike and show mercy, patience and love to each other and please God with how we conduct ourselves.

### **PRAYER**