

Doctrinal Studies

Authority

- I. Definition: The right to command or act. The power to enforce obedience. A person in control.
- II. Biblically: Authority is the legal power delegated by God under the laws of His Will where people have responsibility and obligation of submissiveness. The Greek noun is kuriotes (κυριότης) which means Authority. It is God's plan that there be Authority in the Universe. Col. 3:18; I Tim.6:1-2; Eph. 5:22.
- III. Important words describing Authority: hupotasso (ὑποτάσσω) and hupakouo (ὑπακούω).
 - a. Hupotasso (to stand under authority) is used in Eph.5:21,22; Col.3:18; James 4:17; Rom.8:7,20; Rom.13:5; I Cor.14:32-34; I Cor.15:27 and used for the pastor in I Pet.5:5.
 - b. Hupakouo (to hear under authority) is used in Matt.8:27; Luke 8:25; Rom.6:16; Eph.6:1; Col.3:20,22 and I Pet.3:6.
- IV. There are areas in which Authority must exist and which authority must be fulfilled.
 - a. The word Kuriotes (κυριότης) in Jude 8 means Authority and not domination.
 - b. The Word of God is constituted Authority.
 - c. In the Local Church the communicator has Authority.
 - d. The Husband is the Authority in Marriage.
 - e. Parents are the Authority in the Family.
 - f. Local laws and leadership is the Authority under the Laws of Divine Institution.
 - g. In the Academic World there is Authority. In the classroom at school or college one is to submit to the Authority of leadership.
 - h. In Athletics the Coach is the Authority and the student submits.
 - i. In the business World there must be Authority: President, executive, boss. etc.
 - j. In the Armed services there must be a commanding officer.
- V. Rejection of Authority is always a sign of Apostasy. Eve rejected Authority of God's Word and accepted Satanic influence. She also failed to listen to the authority of her husband, I Tim. 2: 11,12. When Eve began to have social communication with Satan, she was refusing the authority of her companion and committing spiritual, mental and social unfaithfulness.
- VI. Rejection of the Word of God and the proclamation of the Word is also an attack upon Biblically designed Authority. I Thess. 5:12,13; Heb.13:7,17; When a person is not willing to listen to and learn from God's communicator he does not really have awe and respect for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- VII. The necessity of obedience to Authority is emphasized by the many imperatives of the Bible: Deut 11:27; I Sam 15:22; Jer 7:23; Jer 11:4,7; Zech 6:15; I Cor 16:16; II Cor 10:8.
- VIII. Authority of God over nature is revealed in Matt 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.
- IX. Parental Authority is established by the Word of God – Eph 6:1; Col 3:20. Disobedience to parents is named among the dark sins of the unsaved of reprobate minds. Rom 1:23-32 This sin is also listed as extremely evil and is a picture of last days in II Tim 3:2
- X. The Bible presents the necessity of Authority in the business world. Col.3:22; Eph.6:5; I Tim.6:1-8.

- XI. In Marriage, the Word of God emphasizes the man as the one with Authority. Eph.5:22; Col.3:18.
- XII. Jesus Christ the God-man, in His Humanity was totally submissive to His Heavenly Father. Phil.2:5-11. In the dateless past God made a proclamation that Jesus Christ in His humanity would be under subjection to the Father. Deity agreed to that! Therefore, the happiness and security of Christ in humanity was related to submission. It was not bad but good; not degrading but elevating. An all-wise, sovereign, omnipotent God has not set up a degrading system. When children are submissive to parents it is not degrading but elevating. When a woman is submissive to her husband it is not degrading but elevating. When students respect the authority of their professor it is not degrading but elevating. When a body of believers respect the authority of the communicator of God's message, it is not degrading but elevating. GOD HAS A MAGNIFICENT PLAN OF AUTHORITY!!