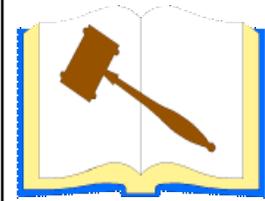


# INTRODUCTION: BIBLE AUTHORITY

*Matthew 28:18,20 -- All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...*



## Introduction:

1. When Pontius Pilate was trying to extract information from Jesus and was getting only silence, he warned Him, "Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" But Jesus pointed out: "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above..." (John 19:10-11).
2. Authority is the power and right to do something. Especially when it comes to the realm of religion: the practice of worship to God and the teaching of doctrinal truth, the question that has to be asked is: "What right do we have to do this or teach that?" One can only have the right if God gives it to him. One can only have the power if he is equal to God.
3. Because certain men believe they have the power to change the will of God they introduce damnable heresies. Because too many believe that they have the right to change God's Word, too many false teachings and doctrines of demons have been introduced into the world (1 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 10-13).

## A. The Authority of Jesus

1. The reason we are Christians is because in the first century, in the midst of the pagan's religions and Jewish corrosion, Jesus came with authority to change it all.
2. "With authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out" (Luke 4:36).
3. He was also "teaching as one having authority" (Matthew 7:29).
4. That is, Jesus was teaching as if He had the right to claim that He was the Son of God, that He could bring in a New Covenant, build a different church, and re-establish the Kingdom of God.
5. Therefore, legitimate questions were asked of Him. "And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, and scribes, and elders came to Him and began saying to Him, 'By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?'"
6. These are the questions to be asked of us all. "Who gives us authority to do what we are doing and teaching?" Here is Jesus' answer. It needs to be ours!

*John 5:19 -- Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.*

*John 8:54-55 -- Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him, and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him, and keep His word.*

*John 10:37-38 -- "If I do not the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.*

*John 10:17-18 -- "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.*

*John 5:26-27 -- For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.*

*John 5:30 -- "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*

*John 8:42 -- Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me."*

*John 7:16-18 -- Jesus therefore answered them, and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the one who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."*

*John 12:44-50 -- And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me. And he who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me. I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."*

7. Jesus had the power to do what He did because God gave it to Him. Jesus had the authority to teach what He did because it came not from Himself. He ONLY spoke what the Father gave Him to speak, and He spoke it the WAY the Father showed Him how to speak it.

## **B. The Authority of the Holy Spirit**

1. The above conclusion can also be seen in the teaching and work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit would only remind them of what He had already taught them (from the Father), and though the Spirit would guide them into all truth, that truth also ONLY came from what the Father spoke.

*John 14:25-26 -- These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

*John 16:13-14 -- But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.*

2. If Jesus only had authority when He spoke the Father's will, and the Holy Spirit only had authority when He spoke the Father's will, where do the many get off making things up as they go, or in thinking that God's word has become outdated? No man has any authority to change the smallest iota of the Word of God. Nor does he have the power!

## **C. The Authority of Disciples**

*Luke 9:1-2 -- And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.*

1. Note that the disciples had authority because Jesus gave it to them. This, however, did not mean that they could teach whatever they wanted to.

*Matthew 28:18-20 -- And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..."*

2. When Jesus came He said: For I have come down from heaven, NOT to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). Now note the definition of a Disciple:

*John 8:31-32 -- Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

*Matthew 10:24-25 -- "A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master..."*

3. "In the name of" means that you have the authority by your relationship with God to do what you do because you do only what is told you to do.

*John 5:43 -- "I have come in My Father's name..."*

*Colossians 3:17 -- And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

*John 10:25 -- Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me."*

4. The word "Christian" means one characteristic of, or resembling, Christ.
5. The term "Son of God" is a Hebrew idiom denoting having the like character of God, being in His image.

*Romans 8:14 -- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

*Philippians 2:15 -- That you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach... as lights in the world.*

*1 John 3:2 -- ...we are children of God... We know... we shall be like Him.*

6. The word "Confession" is a word that means: "to say the same thing." Thus to confess Jesus as Lord is to agree to say the same things He does and do them.

## D. Warnings from the Scriptures

1. When men try to take up God's authority they leave themselves vulnerable to the arguments and challenges of the world. They open the door for doctrines of the devil, and dilute the power of God's gospel to save.
2. Some have argued that the office of the Pope was given the authority "to bind and to loose." Read it closely:

*Matthew 16:18 -- I will give you the keys of the kingdom and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and what every you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*



3. What does "bind" and "loose" mean? Was Peter given the "power and authority", or just the "keys"?
  4. Were not the other apostles, and even the church, given the keys also? (See Matthew 18:15-20).
  5. Also we see from the context (v.15) and John 20:23 that it concerns sins and not laws. The keys are the Father's words and only with them can the church judge sin.
6. This concept is evident in the following passages

*1 Corinthians 4:6 -- Now these things... I have applied... that... you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant.*

*Matthew 15:9 -- In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men.*

*2 John 9 -- Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teachings of Christ, does not have God;...*