

## The Church

Lesson 4  
The Only Source of Divine  
Authority Today

## The Church

1. What Is The Church?
2. Nature of The Universal Church
3. Organization and Work of The Universal Church
4. The Only Source of Divine Authority Today
5. Establishing Divine Authority

2

## The Church

6. Nature of A Local Church
7. Organization and Work of A Local Church
8. Independence Autonomy and Cooperation of Local Churches
9. Institutionalism and The Social Gospel

3

## Organization and Work of The Universal Church

1. What is Jesus' universal church?
2. How is the universal church organized?
3. What is the work of the universal church?

4

## Introduction

- Authority is important in all areas of life, home, government, school, workplace and so on
- Without it, there would be chaos
- In Christianity, there is also the need for authority so we can follow those things which are pleasing to Christ, the head of His one church

5

## Introduction

- Today, we see many churches claiming to serve Christ yet teaching and practicing conflicting things
- Sadly, we must conclude they follow unreliable sources of authority failing to recognize the only source of authority today, the apostles' teaching

6

## What Is Authority?

“Exousia (Greek, ἔξουσία) denotes authority (from the impersonal verb exesti, “It is lawful”). From the meaning of leave or permission, or liberty as doing as one pleases, it passed to that of the ability or strength with which one is endued, ...”  
(An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, by W. E. Vine, p. 89.)

7

## What Is Authority?

“...then to that of the power of authority, the right to exercise power, e.g., Matt. 9:6; 21:23; 2 Cor. 10:8; or the power of rule or government, the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others, e.g., Matt. 28:18; John 17:2; Jude 25; Rev. 12:10, 17:13; “  
(An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, by W. E. Vine, p. 89.)

8

## What Is Authority?

From the previous definition, we gather that authority simply means, the power or right to command

9

## Why Do We Need Divine Authority – A Case Study

Mat 21:23 When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"  
Mat 21:24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

10

## Why Do We Need Divine Authority – A Case Study

Mat 21:25 "The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?"  
And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?'  
Mat 21:26 "But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet."

11

## Why Do We Need Divine Authority – A Case Study

Mat 21:27 And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

12

## Are We Following Jesus' Authority or Practicing Lawlessness?

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Mat 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

13

## Are We Following Jesus' Authority or Practicing Lawlessness?

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

14

## Some Unreliable Sources Of Divine Authority

- Even if we admit the need for Divine authority in Christianity including the church, its organization and work, we might turn to unreliable sources of authority
- If we do, we will be rebelling against Christ instead of submitting to His will
- These unacceptable sources will produce lawlessness and division rather than truth and unity

15

## Personal Opinion and Emotions

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Pro 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

Jer 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

16

## Majority Rule

1Sa 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;

1Sa 8:5 and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations."

17

## Majority Rule

1Sa 8:6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

1Sa 8:7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

18

## Majority Rule

Mat 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

Mat 7:14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

19

## Family

Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

20

## Family

Mat 10:36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

Mat 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

21

## Good Results

2Sa 6:3 They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

2Sa 6:4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark.

22

## Good Results

2Sa 6:5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of instruments made of fir wood, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.

2Sa 6:6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it.

23

## Good Results

2Sa 6:7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

1Ch 15:1 Now David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.

24

## Good Results

1Ch 15:2 Then David said, "No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever."

1Ch 15:13 "Because you did not carry it at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

25

## Elders Preachers and Other Church Leaders

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

26

## Elders Preachers and Other Church Leaders

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Act 20:31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

27

## Elders Preachers and Other Church Leaders

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

28

## Elders Preachers and Other Church Leaders

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

29

## Some Unreliable Sources of Divine Authority

1. Personal opinion and emotions
2. Majority rule
3. Family
4. Good results
5. Elders preachers and other church leaders

30

## The Only Source of Divine Authority Today

1. What is authority and why do we need it?
2. Some unreliable sources of Divine authority

31

## Some Unreliable Sources of Divine Authority

1. Personal opinion and emotions
2. Majority rule
3. Family
4. Good results
5. Elders preachers and other church leaders

32

## The Old Testament

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

33

## The Old Testament

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,  
Eph 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

34

## The Old Testament

Eph 2:16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.  
Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.  
Gal 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

35

## The Old Testament

Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.  
Gal 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.  
Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

36

## Unwritten and Written Traditions

Mar 7:6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

Mar 7:7 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'

37

## Unwritten and Written Traditions

Mar 7:8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

Mar 7:9 He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

38

## Unwritten and Written Traditions

Mar 7:10 "For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH';

Mar 7:11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),'

39

## Unwritten and Written Traditions

Mar 7:12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;

Mar 7:13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

40

## Unwritten and Written Traditions

2Th 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Th 2:15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

41

## Some Unreliable Sources of Divine Authority

1. Personal opinion and emotions
2. Majority rule
3. Family
4. Good results
5. Elders preachers and other church leaders
6. The Old Testament
7. Unwritten and written traditions

42

## The Only Source Of Divine Authority Today

- Jesus is now both savior and head of His one church
- He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide His apostles in all truth
- It is their teaching revealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit that we are to follow
- The apostles' teaching, the New Testament, is the only source of Divine authority today revealing all His church needs to know to please Him

43

## Jesus Is Now Both Savior and Head of His One Church

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

44

## Jesus Is Now Both Savior and Head of His One Church

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

45

## Jesus Is Now Both Savior and Head of His One Church

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

46

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

47

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Heb 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Heb 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

48

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Joh 14:26 "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.

49

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Joh 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 "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.

50

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

51

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

52

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

53

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

54

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

55

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

56

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

57

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

1Co 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

58

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

59

## Jesus' One Church Must Submit To His Authority In The Apostles' Teaching

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

60

## The Only Source of Divine Authority Today

1. What is authority and why do we need it?
2. Some unreliable sources of Divine authority
3. The only source of Divine authority today