

The Church v2

Lesson 4
Unreliable Sources of Religious
Authority

The Church v2

1. What is the church?
2. The nature of the universal church
3. The nature of a local church
4. Unreliable sources of religious authority
5. The only source of Divine authority today
6. How to establish Divine authority
7. Things that are expedient

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The Church v2

8. Respecting the silence of the Scriptures
9. The organization of a local church
10. The work of a local church
11. Independence autonomy and cooperation of local churches
12. Institutionalism
13. The social gospel
14. The unity of the church

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The Nature of A Local Church

1. Composed of Christians assembling in a specific location
2. There are many local churches
3. They begin at different times in different places
4. Enter when we voluntarily join and are accepted by a local church
5. Imperfect human judgment in keeping track of membership

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The Nature of A Local Church

6. Consists of both saved and lost
7. Do not need to be in a local church to be saved
8. Has earthly organization
9. Has a treasury
10. Has specified collective work
11. Can be divided
12. Our membership is ended by death

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Introduction

- Authority is important in all areas of life, home, government, school, workplace and so on
- Without it, there would be chaos
- With no agreed on standards for weights and measures, chaos would reign in the marketplace and in determining distances and boundaries on all levels
- With no common standards for currency, there would be no medium of exchange

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Introduction

- 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
- Today, we see many churches claiming to serve Christ following only the Bible, yet teaching and practicing conflicting things
- Sadly, we must conclude they follow unreliable sources of authority, those which we must seek to avoid

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What Is Authority?

“Exousia (G1849) 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, ...”

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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.)

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What Is Authority?

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

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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.

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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."

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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.

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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?'

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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.'

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Unreliable Sources of Religious Authority

- Even if we admit we need Divine authority in religion, 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
- We note them to avoid them

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The Old Testament

- The Old Testament presents the history of God working His plan of salvation for humanity and the prophecies about Jesus and His coming kingdom, without which we could never have faith in Christ
- The Old Testament contains positive and negative examples of men, women and nations for us to either avoid or follow
- The Old Testament also agrees with many moral teachings of the New Testament

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The Old Testament

- However, after Jesus' death, God inaugurated a new covenant providing God's terms of pardon for all, how we should live as Christians and how we are to worship and work together as a local church
- The apostles teaching, the gospel, is our only source of Divine authority today

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The Old Testament Can Strengthen Our Faith In Christ

Luk 24:44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

Luk 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

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The Old Testament Provides Many Negative and Positive Examples

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.

1Co 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;

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The Old Testament Provides Many Negative and Positive Examples

1Co 10:2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1Co 10:3 and all ate the same spiritual food;

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

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The Old Testament Provides Many Negative and Positive Examples

1Co 10:5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

1Co 10:6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

1Co 10:7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

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The Old Testament Provides Many Negative and Positive Examples

1Co 10:8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

1Co 10:9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

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The Old Testament Provides Many Negative and Positive Examples

1Co 10:10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

1Co 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

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The Old Testament Unreliable For Religious Authority Today

Gal 3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

Gal 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

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The Old Testament Unreliable For Religious Authority Today

Gal 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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The Old Testament Unreliable For Religious Authority Today

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Gal 4:5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Gal 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

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The Old Testament Unreliable For Religious Authority Today

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.

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The Old Testament Unreliable For Religious Authority Today

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.

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Unreliable Sources of Religious Authority

1. What is authority and why do we need it?
2. The Old Testament

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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."

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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."

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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.

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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;

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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.

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Preachers And Other Religious 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;

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Preachers And Other Religious 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.

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Preachers And Other Religious 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.

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Preachers And Other Religious Leaders

1Co 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

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Preachers And Other Religious 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!

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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."

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Written And Unwritten Traditions of Men

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.'

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Written And Unwritten Traditions of Men

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.

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Written And Unwritten Traditions of Men

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),'

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Written And Unwritten Traditions of Men

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."

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Must Follow Traditions Confirmed By The Apostles' Teaching

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.

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Our Conscience, Feelings

Act 23:1 Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."

Act 26:9 "So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

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Our Conscience, Feelings

Act 26:10 "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

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Our Conscience, Feelings

Act 26:11 "And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

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Our Conscience, Feelings

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.

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Our Conscience, Feelings Must Be Guided By The Apostles' Teaching

1Ti 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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Human Wisdom

1Co 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1Co 1:22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

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Human Wisdom

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1Co 1:24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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Unreliable Sources of Religious Authority

1. What is authority and why do we need it?
2. The Old Testament
3. Majority rule
4. Family
5. Preachers and other religious leaders
6. Good results

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Unreliable Sources of Religious Authority

7. Written and unwritten traditions of men
8. Our conscience, feelings
9. Human wisdom

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