

I GIVE YOU AUTHORITY

CHAPTER 5 – POWER WRAPPED IN LOVE

CHAPTER 6 – USING OUR AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLY

Power Wrapped in Love

- ▶ It's All About Love
- ▶ It's All About Jesus!
- ▶ His Message is to LOVE God and One Another



And what is the Fruit (that's singular) from Galatians 5?

Galatians 5: 22-23 - The Living Bible (TLB)

“²²But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.”

Galatians 13 – 15 (The Message)

“Paul: It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out - in no time you will be annihilating each other and where will your precious freedom be then?”

How Did Jesus Use His Authority?

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Jesus used His authority and power wrapped in love. He wants His power to be used for the sake of the powerless. The orphans ... the widows ... the poor ... the oppressed.

Often the same person might fit all 4 categories!



No power on demand.
No using it to prove Himself to skeptics.



But, oh! How He used it for the hurting, the sick, the demonically oppressed. He was full of compassion and showed God's love by healing and setting captives free.

We'd Better Do the Same as Jesus!

We must demonstrate the character of Jesus in the way we use authority.

Let's agree with Charles Kraft -- If it is not loving, it is not Jesus.

We are to exercise authority in humility.

We are to exercise this delegated authority with the same kind of security as Jesus.

We know who we are, who God is and what the source of the authority is.

That should set us free from the spirit of control, demand, abuse!

Truly Ordained Authority . . .

.. always emanates from service!

- ▶ That upside-down Kingdom where leadership is found in becoming the servant of all. We are talking about voluntary submission - a cross-life.
- ▶ Mark 10:45 - He did not come to be served but came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.
- ▶ This is maturity. The Gentle Protector. The elder in the community concerned about the wellbeing of all - and willing to sacrifice to see others walk in freedom!

Is there a guideline about when and where we exercise authority?

- ▶ It seems Jesus healed anywhere and everywhere. Mostly outside the temple.
- ▶ People came to Him in need. His reputation preceded Him. People heard that He had power and they came looking for Him to make them whole - to “sozo” them.
- ▶ If He is our model, then we should be ready to minister in power and authority at any time, at any place and to anyone. Most people, even in the church, are not given the opportunity to receive prayer, and are not in the habit of asking for it.
- ▶ What a gift and privilege to pray for someone! If people hear about a healing and know you pray, they'll come!
- ▶ Remember - it is up to God to bring results!

Kinds of Authority

Status authority - head of family, church, state, teacher; Often the world grants authority to people of wealth, prominence, schooling, "idol status".



Authority over creation - we all have some of that.



God-ordained and God-sustained authority - or personal intimacy authority. Directly from God. Does not relate to "status". Marked by compassion and power. Fellowship with him is crucial - that ability to hang close to the vine. We hear what God wants us to do and then we do that good God work - just as Jesus did. Remember that we can do nothing without Him!

What is “Towel Authority”?

- ▶ Submission - talk about turning a worldview upside down! We submit and we get free??
- ▶ In the spiritual realm, submission puts one under the authority of the spirit being to whom we submit. Then we receive whatever that being's character dictates.

Submission to satan = captivity

Submission to God = freedom

- ▶ We are expected to use our freedom to clothe ourselves in humility! Surrender with grace is empowerment.



10 Commandments of Spiritual Authority

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- ▶ Dr. J. Robert Clinton (*The Making of a Leader and Leadership Emergence Theory*)
- ▶ Equates leadership maturity with an increase in spiritual authority. This is not something you learn from a book but is a life experience - you must know God and His ways and demonstrate it in life.

"A leader does not seek spiritual authority; a leader seeks to know God."

10 Commandments of Spiritual Authority

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The ultimate source of authority is God. It is He who provides this “power base” to undergird ministry.

This authority is delegated by God. We are only channels for it, not owners of it.

We are responsible to God for how we exercise the authority He gives us.

True Christian leaders will recognize God's authority whenever it is manifested in life situations, whether through themselves or through others.

10 Commandments of Spiritual Authority

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- Persons in authority are subject directly to God, not indirectly through other authority figures.
- Refusal to obey others in authority over us is actually rebellion against God, not just against the human instruments of that authority (Romans 13:2)
- If we are rightly subject to God's authority, we will seek and recognize other spiritual authority and be willing to be subject to it.

10 Commandments of Spiritual Authority

We are never to exercise spiritual authority merely for our own benefit.

If we are truly working in spiritual authority, we do not need to insist that others obey us. That is their responsibility before God.

God Himself can be depended on to defend our spiritual authority. We do not need to assert it in such a way that we are defending ourselves.

Something we might not have considered –

Is it irresponsible
NOT to use our
authority?

Is authority a
gift God has
given you?

Matthew 25: 14 – 30 (TLB)

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going into another country, who called together his servants and loaned them money to invest for him while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave \$5,000 to one, \$2,000 to another, and \$1,000 to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities—and then left on his trip. ¹⁶ The man who received the \$5,000 began immediately to buy and sell with it and soon earned another \$5,000. ¹⁷ The man with \$2,000 went right to work, too, and earned another \$2,000. ¹⁸ But the man who received the \$1,000 dug a hole in the ground and hid the money for safekeeping. ¹⁹ After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to him to account for his money. ²⁰ The man to whom he had entrusted the \$5,000 brought him \$10,000. ²¹ His master praised him for good work. ‘You have been faithful in handling this small amount,’ he told him, ‘so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Begin the joyous tasks I have assigned to you.’

Matthew 25: 14 – 30 (TLB)

²² Next came the man who had received the \$2,000, with the report, 'Sir, you gave me \$2,000 to use, and I have doubled it.' ²³ "'Good work,' his master said. 'You are a good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over this small amount, so now I will give you much more.'
²⁴⁻²⁵ Then the man with the \$1,000 came and said, 'Sir, I knew you were a hard man, and I was afraid you would rob me of what I earned, so I hid your money in the earth and here it is!' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'Wicked man! Lazy slave! Since you knew I would demand your profit, ²⁷ you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. ²⁸ Take the money from this man and give it to the man with the \$10,000. ²⁹ For the man who uses well what he is given shall be given more, and he shall have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has shall be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw the useless servant out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Luke 12: 41 – 48 (TLB)

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⁴¹ Peter asked, “Lord, are you talking just to us or to everyone?” ⁴²⁻⁴⁴ And the Lord replied, “I’m talking to any faithful, sensible man whose master gives him the responsibility of feeding the other servants. If his master returns and finds that he has done a good job, there will be a reward — his master will put him in charge of all he owns. ⁴⁵ But if the man begins to think, ‘My Lord won’t be back for a long time,’ and begins to whip the men and women he is supposed to protect, and to spend his time at drinking parties and in drunkenness — ⁴⁶ well, his master will return without notice and remove him from his position of trust and assign him to the place of the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ He will be severely punished, for though he knew his duty he refused to do it. ⁴⁸ But anyone who is not aware that he is doing wrong will be punished only lightly. Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater.”

What do Paul and Peter say about servants and gifts?

"The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master." Paul - I Cor. 4:2

"Each one as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God." Peter - I Peter 4:10

So how does this apply to all the good gifts God has given each of us?

What about the authority of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit that He has put within us?

Do these parables and statements apply to us in all areas of our giftings?

Satan and his demons know our gifts

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- ▶ Satan's goal - to keep God's people living lives less than what He created for us to be.
- ▶ Satan knows he lost his position when Jesus defeated the grave.
- ▶ He knows we have authority over him.
- ▶ He will do everything possible to keep us from knowing and walking with it. Once we do, he loses!
- ▶ What an awesome privilege and responsibility to use our gifts, the authority and power to advance God's Kingdom. We need to learn the rules of using that authority and power in the spiritual realm!

Misuse of Authority

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When people given it are exalted.

When those without power are hurt.

When Scripture is mishandled.

When people are led away from God.

When God's work is opposed.

When authority is counterfeited.

How Did Jesus Teach?

- ▶ Jesus taught His followers by having them follow Him and learn.
- ▶ What about Luke 9 – the Apostles?
- ▶ And Luke 10 – the 70 who were sent out?

Are there differences in the assignments?
In the outcomes?

What About Charles Kraft's statement?

"An important part of responsibility is to not neglect it. I wonder how often we have neglected the authority Jesus has given us by not applying His power to illness, weather, poverty or other life situations that He expects us, as His agents, to deal with? I wonder how many people Jesus heals directly because we do not participate? Worse yet, how many go unhealed because we who have been commissioned to operate in Jesus' authority and power have neglected our responsibility?"

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