

Two Sources of Authority

A. Matthew 21:23-27 Two sources of authority:

1. There are two sources of authority - heaven and man (Matt. 21:23-27).
 - a. Authority from heaven is God's doctrine (Rom. 6:17; 16:17; 1 Tim. 6:1; Tit. 2:10). It is revealed in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17; cf. 2 Jn. 1:9).
 - b. Authority from man is the doctrines of men and demons (Matt. 15:9; Mk. 7:6-9; Col. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:1; cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15).
2. "Authority" defined:
 - a. the Greek word *exousia* (translated "authority" in Matt. 21:23, 24, 27) is a noun that comes from the Greek verb *exesti* meaning *it is right, lawful*.
 - b. "authority" is the power to command what is right and lawful.
 1. Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18).
 - c. A person conducting himself according to Jesus' commands has authority from Jesus for what he does (Col. 3:17).
 1. This person has authority from heaven.
 - d. A person not conducting himself according to Jesus' commands does not have authority from Jesus.
 1. This person's authority is from man (Col. 2:21-23; cf. Matt. 15:8-9; Mk. 7:6-9).

B. Man's authority results in death.

1. Man's thoughts and ways are different from God's (Is. 55:8-9).
 - a. We must go to God's word to know His ways (Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 2:10-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
2. Man cannot rely on his conscience to obey God.
 - a. The way that seems right to a man results in eternal death (Pr. 16:2, 25).
 - b. Man is incapable of discerning the truth without God and His word (Jn. 17:17; Rom. 1:16-17; 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - c. Saul (the apostle Paul) lived in good conscience and sinned (Acts 23:1; 22:1-5).
3. Man cannot rely on human wisdom to obey God.
 - a. **1 Cor. 1:18-31** God saves those who believe (vs. 21) so that no flesh may glory in His presence (vs. 29).
 - b. Our faith cannot be in man's wisdom (1 Cor. 2:5; cf. Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 1. If our faith is in man's wisdom, it is demonic (Ja. 3:13-18; 2:19).
 - c. We must avoid worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 2:5; 3:18-23; cf. 1 Cor. 4:6). The result of adhering to worldly wisdom is carnality (1 Cor. 3:1-4) and eternal death (2 Cor. 7:10; cf. Rev. 20:14-15).
4. The majority of people will perish (Matt. 7:13-14).
 - a. Only eight souls were saved in the days of Noah (1 Pet. 3:20).

5. Parents are not a safe guide.
 - a. Paul persecuted the church when living according to his fathers' traditions (Gal. 1:13-16).
 - b. We must love Jesus more than family (Matt. 10:37).

C. The Old Testament is not authoritative today.

1. We must hear and obey Jesus, not Moses or Old Testament prophets (Heb. 1:1-2; 5:9; Matt. 17:5).
2. The old covenant (Ten Commandments) has been replaced with a new covenant (Heb. 8:8-9, 13; 9:11-17; 1 Ki. 8:9, 21).
 - a. The Ten Commandments are a ministry of death (2 Cor. 3:1-8).
 - b. God changed the law (Heb. 7:12; cf. Col. 2:13-14). We must obey the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21; cf. Heb. 5:9; 2 Th. 1:8; 2 Jn. 1:9).
3. If we can be saved by obeying the Mosaic Law, Christ died in vain (Gal. 2:21).

D. We live under the law of Christ.

1. Christ has all authority (Matt. 28:18).
 - a. Jesus is God (Jn. 1:1; 1 Jn. 1:1).
 - b. God (Father) is not subject to Christ (1 Cor. 15:27-28).
2. We must hear and obey Jesus (Heb. 1:1-2; 5:9; Matt. 17:5).
3. Jesus is our Creator and the Sustainer of the creation. He has the right to rule (Jn.1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3).
 - a. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:16).
 - b. We must do all in Jesus' name (Col. 3:17). Everything we do must be authorized by Christ.
4. We must obey Christ - His law and gospel (Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21; cf. Rom. 8:2; Heb. 5:9; Ja. 1:25; 2:12; 2 Th. 1:8; 2 Jn. 1:9).
 - a. Jesus' law is the law of liberty (Ja. 1:25; cf. Gal. 2:4; Col. 1:28), the law of the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2, 4).
 1. We will be judged by Jesus (2 Cor. 5:10), by His word (Jn. 12:48).
 2. James says that we will be judged by the law of liberty (Ja. 1:25; 2:12).
 3. Therefore, the law of Christ and the law of liberty are the teachings of Christ (cf. Heb. 5:9; 2 Jn. 1:9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
5. Everyone who does not obey Christ's gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord (2 Th. 1:8-10; cf. Col. 2:14; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8).

E. Christ is Head of the church.

1. Jesus purchased the church with His blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
2. Jesus is Head over the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - a. All things are under His feet (1 Cor. 15:23-25; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16).
3. The church is subject to Christ (Eph. 5:24).

- a. Everything the church does must be authorized by Christ (1 Cor. 4:6; Col. 3:17).
- b. Any unauthorized worship is vain (Matt. 15:8-9; Mk. 7:6-9).
4. Jesus is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:23).
 - a. Christ's body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
 - b. The Lord adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:40-47; cf. Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13).
 - c. Anyone who is not a member of Christ's body (the church) is not saved (Eph. 5:23).