

SEVEN LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

Practical leadership is by an attitude of

- 1) Servant-Fatherhood**
- 2) By example**
- 3) By relationship.**

A God appointed Leader or Head has authority, but, like Jesus, they do not primarily lead by enforcing that authority but by example. They disciple by servant- fatherhood just like Jesus did.

If you don't have time to relate, you don't have the right to lead. You cannot pastor what you will not father. You must learn from God the Father and Jesus the Great Shepherd.

Rom.13:1 – Literally says “Submit to the higher authority”. When there is a confusion or conflict of authority over us, we should always submit to the higher authority.

In doing this we may have to refuse to obey an authority over us which is of a lower order because it is asking us to do something that is wrong and for us to obey would be to violate the authority of a higher order. That there are such different levels of authority in the spirit realm is implicit here in this verse.

We must also understand that there is a difference between obedience and submission. It possible to respectfully and submissively refuse to obey a commandment give by a delegated authority such as a government official or an employer because it violates a higher authority such as the clear meaning of the Word of God. This is what Peter did when he was commanded not to speak any more in the Name of Jesus. He said we must obey God not man(Acts 3:17-20).

THERE ARE SEVEN LEVELS OF AUTHORITY AND EACH HAS A COUNTERFEIT.

With the re-discovery of true spiritual authority we must be careful to submit only to that which is operating legally and not submit at all to that which is counterfeit and operating illegally. Much harm has been done by failing to recognize and distinguish between the true and false authority.

GENUINE AUTHORITY

COUNTERFEIT AUTHORITY.

1) DIVINE AUTHORITY

Imperial, Divine, Sovereign Authority.
God Himself is absolute final authority
Especially in the power of His presence
Job 42:5,6; Rev.1:17.

1) PEER PRESSURE.

Yielding to the opinions and the
standards of those around. Obeying
cultural pressure rather than God.
Eph.2:1-3; Gal.1:10.

2) AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

PSS.119: 1-176

I submit to the Word unconditionally
because I submit to the infallible One
Who spoke it.

2) AUTHORITY OF TRADITION

Mark

7:7,8,13. Yielding to the oral
or written
traditions of men and as a result
setting
aside the word of God.

3) AUTHORITY OF CONSCIENCE

1Cor.8:7 The application of truth of the
Word by the Holy Spirit in our
conscience/spirit. To work properly,

our conscience must be cleansed,
instructed and sensitized by the Word
of God. It must also be constantly
immersed in the Holy Spirit

3) AUTHORITY OF FEELINGS

“If it feels good do it”. “I felt led”
is
often not God but Natural Feelings.
Or worse it could be demonic
deception.

4) DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Responsibility comes before
authority. Authority always
follows responsibility. You
must care before you command.

Jesus the great example. “All
Authority has been given to Me”.

4) USURPED AUTHORITY.

Imposed on others. Claiming an
authority
God has not given. Using authority as a
means of control.
This is illegal. Behind this illegal
manipulation
and control is the spirit of witchcraft and
of Jezebel.

(Matt.28:18). "I have come as One who Serves"

Man has no authority higher than this over another person.

Examples of delegated authority

e.g. Apostolic Authority.

2Cor.10:8;2Cor.13:10;

1Cor.4:21.

Elder Authority and Pastor Authority.

Parental Authority.

Husband Authority.

Employer Authority.

Secular Governmental Authority.

5) STIPULATIVE AUTHORITY

The authority of legal rights or of a contractual agreement.

Luke 18:1-7 She claimed her legal rights. Avenge me!

Luke 10;19 All authority over all the power of Satan.

Exd.22:1-4;Prov.6:31. The right of restitution.

The "oughts and "musts" of Scripture. Luke 18:1; Rom.13:7.

5) LEGALISM

This is the counterfeit of true stipulative authority.

Gal.3:1-3. Manipulative control is the spirit of Jezebel. It is a form of witchcraft.

THE DIRECT AUTHORITY TO RULE IS FOUND ONLY IN THESE 5 LEVELS OF AUTHORITY. THE LOWER LEVELS OF THESE 5 AUTHORITIES CANNOT OVERRIDE THE HIGHER LEVELS.

e.g. Peter - 1Pe.2;13; Acts 5: 29. Civil Authorities are a Delegated Authority. Delegated Authority cannot override the authority of God, the Word, or Conscience.

THE TWO REMAINING LEVELS OF AUTHORITY ARE SERVING AUTHORITIES.

They are given voluntarily and cannot be demanded. But spiritual laws operate. So we do well to heed them and we suffer the consequences if we don't.

6) AUTHORITY OF HONOR.

Honor of Parents.Eph.6:1.
Honor of Elders 1Tim.5:17.
Honor of Apostles, Prophets.
2Cor.10:13; Mark 6:4;
Matt. 10:41.

6) DISHONOR.

Will not recognize,
submit to or honor that
authority. Claiming equality.
Egalitarian.
Rebellion Pulling down
that authority.
e.g. Ham.- Gen.9:21-25.
See Num.Chapters.12,14,16.
In N.T. Hymenius, Alexander,
Dotrephes (1 Tim.1:18-20;
2 Tim.4:14,15; 3John:9-11).

7) FUNCTIONAL AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY

The authority that comes with
the operation of a gift.
e.g. Prophecy.
Working of Miracles
Words of Knowledge
Deacon in charge of a practical task.

7) KING SPIRIT like SAUL

My Gift sets me above others
I'm in charge!
I'm the Ruler.
I'm God's Man or Woman.
Because of my anointing I must be
treated differently, I want proper
respect".

Gift or Functional authority operates while the gift is working in a man or a woman when it is genuinely operating under God's authority,

It is sometimes proper for the Governmental Authority to choose to submit to that gift authority temporarily as it is operated by the Holy Spirit.

It is also proper to lead the Church to do so. This is not an abdication of proper governmental responsibility but giving proper place to that Gift Authority. However, that Gift Authority can never usurp or override the Governmental Authority and must not attempt to do so however powerful the manifestation of the gift (2 Chron.20:14-22; 1 Cor. 12:28).

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