

THE AUTHORITY OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION:

1) **The church of Christ is “a glorious church.** “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:25-27).

2) **The church is the avenue through which we glorify God.** “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:21).

3) **The church is so important that when one is persecuting the church, he is persecuting Christ.** “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:1-5).

4) **Christ is the Head over all things to the church.** “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,” (Ephesians 1:21-22).

5) Since Christ is the head over all things to the church, He must have some way by which He governs the church.

6) God instructs.

(1) by His authority “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17).

(2) “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole” (Acts 4:8-10).

I. WHAT IS NOT THE AUTHORITY

1) The authority of the church is **not the world**.

- (1) Hollywood is not the standard.
- (2) Promotes moral corruption as acceptable lifestyle (homosexuality, etc)
- (3) Religion is popular in Hollywood right now. - only their corrupted version.
- (4) Must remember that the world is not the standard

2) The authority is **not the multitude**.

(1) “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:” (Exodus 23:2).

(2) “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

3) The authority is **not our forefathers**. “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers” (Galatians 1:13-14).

4) The authority is **not our personal feelings**. Feelings can often be wrong. “And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him” (Genesis 37:34-35).

II. GOD’S WORD – THE BIBLE – IS OUR STANDARD OF AUTHORITY.

1) God speaks to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

(1) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

(2) “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

(3) “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

2) The Bible is the Word of God.

- (1) “ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).
- (2) “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the

simple” (Psalm 119:130).

3) Specifically, we are under the New Covenant.

(1) “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth” (Hebrews 9:15-17).

(2) “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:9-10).

II. WHY THE BIBLE IS THE AUTHORITY OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH.

1) It is **Divinely Inspired**. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2Timothy 3:16-17).

(1) Alive and active. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

(2) God gave us His very Word (not just His thoughts).

(3) “The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue” (2Samuel 23:2).

(4) “Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth” (Jeremiah 1:9).

(5) “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1Corinthians 2:10).

2) It is God’s **final revelation to mankind**.

(1) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

(2) “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13) not to be altered.

(3) “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8-9).

3) It is God’s **absolute standard**. (Not relative or elastic)

(1) “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32) (knowable).

(2) “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him” (1John 2:3-5).

(3) “And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:69).

4) It **never changes**.

(1) Do not need a new Gospel for a new age.

(2) Man’s basic needs have not changed. (Temptations, spiritual problems, God’s remedy – the blood of Christ.)

Conclusion:

1) The glorious church has a standard of authority. It is the Word of God.

2) God’s Word is eternal. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).