

Why Authority Matters 05-01-16 AM

In Matthew 21:23-27 Jesus is asked a very important question. From where did His authority come? Jesus reply is to ask them where John's authority came from: God or Man. In this event we learn two very important points: we must know where our authority comes from, and it can come from only one of two places. Consider this question in this graphic:



What is Authority From Men?

When we talk about authority from men, we mean a number of sources that originate in the minds of men. Parents, Feelings, Conscience, Emotions, Personal Desire, the Majority, Religious Leaders, Human Creeds & Traditions, a Good End are all examples of authority from men.

What is Authority From Christ?

It is easier to understand what constitutes the authority of Christ. Scriptures ALONE are authority from Christ. We are told this in a number of places (1 Corinthians 4:6, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We understand that we have been commanded to act in Faith (Romans 14:23) and that Faith comes from the Scriptures (Romans 10:17).

What Happens When We Act Without Authority?

There are numerous examples in the Old and New Testament of the dangers of acting without authority. In 1 Samuel 13:8-14 (1 Samuel 10:7) we Saul acting (sacrificing) without authority (Samuel). Saul is cursed by God through Samuel for this error. Saul teaches us an important lesson: NOTHING is acceptable without authority!

Later God sought for Himself a king after His own heart. In the context of I Samuel 13, it would suggest that God was describing someone who pursued authority. It may have been David would later write about the need to seek God's authority in Psalm 105:1-7. "Seek the LORD and His strength" and "Seek His face continually" would be poet ways of describing the authority of God.

There are only two types of Authority: form God and from men. One leads to condemnation, one leads to exultation. Which one do you seek?