The Meaning of Authority

Jeff Trahan · Isaiah 52:7

INTRODUCTION

- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
- This verse contains one of the key messages of the gospel that is that God reigns. He is king. He is sovereign.
- And so that’s why authority matters because God is king.

1 Authority Is Grounded on Four Pillars of Truth

Genesis 1:1; Acts 2:36; 1 Corinthians 2:9–13

- The first of those is that God is the creator. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- The second is that Christ is the one who now reigns as king.
- God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.
- The Holy Spirit is the revealer of the mind of God.
- And then the fourth pillar is that mankind is God’s creation.
- People are flawed sinners who can’t be the final standard of truth.

2 All Sin Is Rebellion Against God’s Authority

Jude 11; Numbers 16:3; 1 John 3:4

- At the heart of all three is an attitude that allows people to think that their way is better than God’s way.
- The way of Cain is a path to envy and hatred that is due to a failure to follow God’s instructions by faith.
- The error of Balaam seeks to place worldly value and personal gain above God’s will.
- The rebellion of Korah was an effort to question the plan and the order that God had set in place for leading his people.
- Ultimately all sin is rebellion against the nature and authority of God.

3 One of the Most Fundamental Issues We Face

Luke 22:42; Romans 3:10

- The subject of authority is fundamental. It’s one of the most fundamental issues that we will ever face.
- It lies at the heart of the most basic questions about doctrine and about practice, what we believe and what we do.

- Everyone follows someone's authority. In the absence of God's authority, we will either make our own or we will follow that of someone else.
- We need to be like Jesus when he said, "Not my will but yours be done." That is the mindset we must adopt.

4 Authority: Power and Official Permission

Genesis 1:1

- Authority is the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.
- God alone has this power or this right just inherently. The authority he possesses is based on his position as the creator of all things.
- The right to act in a specified way delegated from one person to another. We might call that official permission.
- When talking about having authority to do something as God's people, what we're claiming is that we have his permission to do something.

5 All Other Authority Is Delegated by Him

Romans 13:1; Matthew 28:18; John 12:44–50

- He alone has the absolute right to rule. He has the right to expect obedience. All other authority is delegated by him.
- For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the father who sent me has given me a commandment what to say and what to speak.
- If we can't trace it back to God through Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit and revealing the word of God, then we don't really have it.
- If it's in the book, if it is something that God commands, then it's something we need to be doing. And if it's not in the book, then we better not be doing it.

THE CHALLENGE

May we learn to take God and his will seriously in everything that we do.

MY NOTES