

*Understanding
Delegated Authority*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most crucial things expressed in the Bible is the principle of delegated authority. It is not manipulation to control people's individuality, leading by personality, or taking advantage of people because of a higher position. According to the Word of God, delegated authority is simply leadership that follows God's order.

In His humanity, Jesus Christ was under the authority of God the Father, though He was equal in the Trinity as God the Son. Jesus' submission to God the Father was precise. He would not entertain a single thought that was not derived from God the Father. Every thought was from God the Father!

This booklet will examine delegated authority for what it is—a gift of God that enables Christians, churches, and organizations to operate decently and in order.

Chapter One

THE INDIVIDUALITY
OF THE FATHER, THE SON,
AND THE SPIRIT

“For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me” (Romans 15:3).

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise” (John 5:19).

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:30).

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, [Show] us the Father?

“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:9-10).

During His time on earth, Jesus Christ chose to “seek not” His own will but the Father’s. Was His doctrine different from the Father’s? No. Was His character different from the Father’s character? No. Did He have any teacher but the Father? No.

Did Jesus Christ have individuality? Yes. How could He have individuality and still only have thoughts that He derived from the One who sent Him? He *chose* to submit to the plan of the Father. He was not a puppet. Would He go any place that the Father didn’t give Him permission to go? No, because, as a servant, He diligently sought to do His Father’s will.

The Spirit Glorifies the Son

“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 [show] you things to come.

“He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of

mine, and shall [show] it unto you” (John 16:13-14).

Based on what these verses communicate, would you agree that the Holy Spirit has always submitted to Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit, in the order of the Trinity’s delegated authority, never glorifies Himself. Instead, He glorifies the Son.

The Bible says that the Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ, and that He will not speak of Himself. Other than to teach doctrine about Him and to honor Him as an equal member of the Trinity (see Acts 5:3), the focus is to be on Christ. Therefore, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we exalt Jesus Christ .

Chapter Two

BEING SENT AS JESUS WAS SENT

“...Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21).

As the Father sent Him, Jesus sends us. In other words, Jesus submitted to the will of God the Father; therefore, a Christian who refuses to submit to God’s authority is not operating in the proper order of being sent.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto to the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

What is it that we are supposed to teach? We are to teach what we have been commanded by

God to teach. We are to teach exactly what Jesus Christ teaches us. Will we have diversity in our presentation? Yes. We can be used according to the individuality of our gifts, but we must teach what we have been commanded to teach. This is what it means to operate under God's authority.

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." From whom did Jesus receive His power? While He was on earth, He received power from His Father in heaven.

Guided to Speak Truth

Here is what Jesus is saying to us: "I have been sent, and the same way that I have been sent, I send you. I have been taught (Isaiah 11:2-3), and the same way I have been taught, I will teach you. The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth. And, the Spirit who guides you into all truth will always glorify Me—He will not speak of Himself."

When I live under God's authority, I have the power of the One who sent me, the blessings of the One who is over me, and the fruit of the One who is living in me.

Do I have individuality? Yes, I certainly do. Do I have personality? That depends on what you know about personality. If personality

means, "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20), if it is "[my] life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3), if it is "for me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21), then I have a derived life from the Person Jesus Christ.

Not I, But Christ

Every marriage should operate under delegated authority, not under one partner's personality. Marriage partners are to submit to the delegated authority of a union derived from the Lord Jesus Christ. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). This is the Word of God.

Is the husband the head of the home? The Word says that he is, provided he is operating under the proper authority of Christ. Remember, we are not puppets for someone to impose authority over us in Adam. Anytime we operate in our natural ability to manipulate God's plan, our name is Adam. Any time we operate in Jesus Christ, it is "not I but Christ who lives in me."

We must understand that in our decisions, God has veto rights, Jesus Christ has veto rights, the Holy Spirit has veto rights, and the Word of God has veto rights. But they will never veto

anyone living in Christ. They only veto those who are in Adam.

This doesn't mean that we don't have any flexibility. It doesn't mean that we can't prove all things. It doesn't mean that He doesn't let us make mistakes. But it does mean that we are people under God's authority. If we are out of God's order of being sent, we won't have God's power. If we are sent by Him then we are under proper authority.

If you are a Christian, you are under authority (Luke 7:8). Being under authority, Matthew 4:4 says we are to live by every single word of God. We are to be sanctified in the Word (John 17:17). Will God ever take free volition away from us? No. Choices are ours; the consequences are up to Him.

Chapter Three

THE PURPOSE OF FOLLOWING GOD'S ORDER

An older Christian in authority has tried many things, and he probably knows some of the things that will not work for your life. He knows where not to go, and he may warn you about it. If he does that, he is not usurping authority but simply sharing his experience.

Being sent by God is a marvelous, wonderful, precious, and sacred experience. One of our pastors on the foreign field told me, "If you need me at home base, I will be there tomorrow." I told him to honor his call to the field. He was honoring his pastor, and I honored God and His call for this pastor's life. Because of his gifts, it would have been very easy to say, "Sure, come on home." But we must honor Him who sends us in the right operation under delegated authority.

Separated by the Spirit

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy [Spirit] said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

“And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away” (Acts 13:2-3).

The most beautiful thing represented in this passage is that before Barnabas and Paul were sent by delegated authority, “they” (the prophets and teachers, in Acts 13:1) fasted and prayed. *They* fasted, *they* prayed, and then the Holy Spirit told *them* that Paul and Barnabas should go.

These two didn’t come and say, “We feel led to go somewhere.” The first thing noted is that they were ministering to the Lord. We minister to the Lord when we allow Him to send us where we are called to go, taking heed to the checks and balances of godly leadership. That is ministering to the Lord. It is making Jesus Lord.

Then they fasted, and the Holy Spirit said, “Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” The leaders laid hands on them and then sent them out. They were sent under submission to the ones who laid hands on them.

Rule and Submission

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you” (1 Thessalonians 5:12).

What do you think God wants you to do with these verses? “Obey.” “Rule.” “Submit.” Do these words go against your Adam nature? We need to understand that each of us has someone over us. And, the one who is over us has someone over him. “Obey them that have the rule over you.” This is a very important principle for the church today.

“Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things” (Galatians 6:6).

A pastor communicates the Word of God

through preaching and teaching every part of it. Believers are to live by every word of God, according to Matthew 4:4. Therefore, listeners are responsible to make their own decisions based on the Word. A pastor cannot legislate obedience. Obedience to the Word is a choice from the heart of the hearer.

Parents must train their children at a very young age to submit to authority and to respect their elders. Parents also must avoid sentimentality and keep from “provoking” their children (Ephesians 6:1-4). In other words, parents are not to be unkind, making unreasonable demands. At the same time, mothers and fathers must be fervent in honoring the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God. They must be very careful to honor delegated authority such as the police, the pastor, school administrators, and teachers.

Galatians 6:6 means that in the table of organization of a church there ought to be clear communication, for the purpose of checks and balances, with the one who is your pastor-teacher. Communicate with him so that he has an opportunity before God, through Christ, to help you in making decisions. The key is communication.

Some Christians have never learned to honor delegated authority. They accuse godly leaders with statements that are not relevant, accurate, or true.

When we are sent, we represent God. Furthermore, we are in the table of a divine government from the kingdom of heaven: the Father, the Son, the Spirit, the Word, the husband, the wife, the children, the pastor, the employer, the employees, the coach, the players, the policemen, the teacher, the students. Every single person is under the authority of a government. As we are in a government, we are called to honor the principles of being governed. A government always has a certain order that has to be followed, since government without order is anarchy.

As free volitional agents, we have the privilege of making choices. But when we choose to honor the principle of being governed, we agree with delegated authority as it is given through the Lord Jesus Christ. We receive a badge of divine approval from God as He promotes our individual lives.

Chapter Four

FROM HUMILITY TO PROMOTION

We are sent by God. And as sent ones, we represent God. We reveal God and His character, and we are here in Christ's stead. Because we have a personal relationship with Christ, we have access to God in every area of our lives, without exception.

As we humble ourselves before God, He guarantees that He will lift us up.

"Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

"But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless, such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they have none.

“And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

“And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

“But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

“But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife” (1 Corinthians 7:27-33).

Marital Authority

In those verses just quoted, the apostle Paul is saying that there will be challenges if you get married. Those challenges and wrong priorities could take some people away from their call, having been sent by God. But Paul is also saying that it is not wrong to get married. Furthermore, as you get married in God’s authority, stay in God’s delegated authority. You can be blessed in your marriage. Remember, God can honor you because He always provides for everyone who is under the proper delegated authority. But, He doesn’t provide for Adam, though He does forgive and allow believers to

use rebound.

When the Word says “the time is short” and “they that have wives be as though they have none,” it doesn’t mean to neglect your family through subjectivity and hyper spirituality. It means that more than ever, you need to hear the Word of the King, and He must remain King in your life. If you are considering marriage, make sure that it is God’s will for *your* life before you have to submit to someone whose will is different from your desire to follow God.

Dealing with Leaders

The pastor must make sure that he doesn’t lord himself over God’s heritage (1 Peter 5:3-4). He needs to have a heart that is understanding, compassionate, and entreatable (Jeremiah 3:15). A godly leader leads by example. He is to serve and wash other’s feet (John 13:5-10). A godly leader needs to have a servant’s heart (Matthew 20:26-28).

If the pastor is wrong and someone lovingly approaches him, the office must be protected and the friendship covered. Go to the pastor alone, and the pastor ought to submit (Ephesians 5:21). This is called balance.

Do not circulate what happened—that is

maligning and gossip. Go to him alone and check out the facts. If the pastor is a humble man of God and the person going to him is correct, the pastor will submit and thank the person for coming to him.

As God is, so are we in this world. We are to redeem the time because the days are evil. The time is short, so I would say to you that there is no greater protection in the world than being sent by God. You are sent just as much as your pastor is sent. He has his position in God's table of government and you have yours. His value to the Kingdom of God is not greater than yours.

We are all equal in value before God, and each one is precious in His eyes. When you go to work and you are under a supervisor, he has no more value than you do. You are just as precious as he is. But while you are at work, you are under his authority which is given by God.

CONCLUSION

God's authority is love. His authority is forgiveness. His authority is power in prayer. His authority gives guidance. When a person steps out from honoring delegated authority, he begins to usurp authority. He is no longer under the provision or protection of that authority. Coming out from under the authority of the Plan is usurping the authority of the Planner. It represents a rejection of God the Father, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the precise guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If a person in authority comes to you and is unkind, he is revealing the nature of Adam, even though his office is of God. God will have to deal with him because you represent God, you reveal God, and you are here in Christ's stead. Anyone who uses his office in Adam will not have the blessing of the Plan, though God will give the grace to get back into it the moment he repents and rebounds.

Father, give us the wisdom to discern and respond to Your delegated authority. Thank You for the grace to function as Your representatives on earth and to always reveal your authority of love. In Jesus' name, Amen.