

<p>What is Authority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority is “the power to command, enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge” (AHD 142). • Authority (Gr. <i>exousia</i>) = “power or authority to do a thing” (LS 276). • “Authority, rule, dominion, jurisdiction... full power (Moulton 146). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Authority</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a ministry the more excellent, by so much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which hath been enacted upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then would no place have been sought for a second”</i> Hebrews 8:6-7</p>	<p>Words such as “authority,” “rule,” “dominion,” “jurisdiction,” “enforce laws,” and “exact obedience” strongly infers a society in which one has these authorized rights. The word of God calls this society the “kingdom of God” or the church (Matt. 16:18ff; I Thess. 2:11-12). Note that the NT teaches that Jesus is the head or king of this kingdom (Jn. 18:37; Col. 1:13ff).</p>
<p>Let us examine the Authoritative Position of Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus created all things by His great power (Col. 1:16). • Jesus, being part of the godhead, simply spoke and all things obeyed his voice (Ps. 33:6-9). • Note the following parts of God’s creation that obey the authoritative voice of Jesus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The physical elements of the earth obey the voice of Jesus (cf. Matt. 8:25-27). ○ Animals obeyed Jesus’ authoritative words (cf. Matt. 17:27). ○ Sickness (Matt. 8:6-8), disease (Matt. 8:2-3), and demonic spirits (Matt. 8:16) obey His voice. ○ Life and death obey Jesus (Matt. 9:18ff; Lk. 8:54ff; Jn. 11:1ff). ○ Jesus displayed authority over sin (Matt. 9:2-8) and his preaching was done with authority (Matt. 7:28-29; 13:24). • Reasoning: If all other parts of the Lord’s creation obey him should not man whom God hath created (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 17:5-8; Heb. 2:1)? • Jesus said, “<i>I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes unto the Father, but by me</i>” (Jn. 14:6). 		
<p>Jesus Tells us that there are Two Sources of Authority (Matt. 21:23-25):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is divine authority (i.e., laws of a divine origin / cf. Jn. 16:13-15; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:3ff). • Secondly, there is fleshly wisdom of man (i.e., their imaginations [Lk. 1:51; II Cor. 10:5], man’s “I think so” [Jn. 16:1-4], “I say this is so” [Matt. 15:3-6], fleshly wisdom [II Cor. 1:12; Rom. 8:5ff], and independent reasoning [Rom. 1:21ff]). • Man is not at liberty to imagine and reason by fleshly wisdom spiritual practices. God has delivered commandments (or a “<i>pattern</i>”) to follow and we are not at liberty to change these laws (I Cor. 14:37; II Tim. 1:13) (for an excellent example note and compare God’s commands at Exodus 20:24-26 and Deuteronomy 4:15. See also Heb. 7:11ff). • Seeing that the possibility of man’s imagination and human reason exists in spiritual subjects the Lord warned His disciples, and us, to guard against false teaching (cf. Matt. 5:19; 7:15; 16:11-12; II Pet. 2:1ff). 		
<p>God’s Pattern is Revealed to Man by Jesus, the Apostles, Prophets, and other Inspired People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspired writers of God’s word often communicated by use of direct commandments (cf. I Thess. 3:6). • Sometimes the inspired writers communicated thoughts through inference. They depended upon their hearers to have an understanding of basic Bible principles to properly and necessarily make the right implication (I Cor. 7:27-28). • While these men followed the very instructions they delivered they called upon others to emulate their words and practices (cf. I Cor. 11:3; Phil. 3:17; 4:9 etc.). 		