

BY
WHAT *Luke 20:1-8*
AUTHORITY

Moral Authority



THERE IS A MORAL AUTHORITY

The Same Authority Governing the Actions of the church Governs the Actions of the Individual

- ❖ **Matthew 28:18** – “all” is not limited to any person, place, or thing.
- ❖ Practically – **Colossians 3:17** – authority is needed for everything we do even as individuals.
 - ❖ **Cf. Colossians 3:18-4:1** – addressing individual responsibilities separate from those of the collective church.
- ❖ May be understood, but sometimes lacking consistency in individual practice.

THERE IS A MORAL AUTHORITY

The Authority of Christ is Demonstrated in Ways Beyond the Collectivity of the Church

- ❖ I.e. there are distinct realms where Christ's authority operates with equal force, though regarding different specific matters.
 - ❖ Example – **James 1:27** – directed toward the individual. (Not to be confused with church responsibility.)
 - ❖ Example – **1 Timothy 5:3, 8, 9-10, 16** – distinctions made between individual and church responsibility.
- ❖ It is as important to conform to Christ's authority individually as it is as a church.

MORAL AUTHORITY MUST BE COMMUNICATED

A Standard of Morality Must Be Revealed to be Known

❖ *Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12* – we cannot know within ourselves.

❖ Our conscience is not a standard of morality – *Acts 23:1*

❖ Man must look to God's word for a moral pattern –
Romans 7:7

❖ For man to be pure he must appeal to God's word –
Psalms 119:9

MORAL AUTHORITY MUST BE COMMUNICATED

Moral Authority is Communicated Through the Same Methodology as Any Other Divine Revelation

- ❖ The grace of God teaches us morality – *Titus 2:11-12*
- ❖ Direct Statement/Command, Example, Necessary Inference
 - ❖ Jesus on marriage – *Matthew 19:3-6*
 - ❖ Paul on labor – *2 Thessalonians 3:7-9*

MORAL AUTHORITY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO AND ENFORCED

The Call to Obedience Extends Beyond Collective Matters of the Church

- ❖ Loving neighbor (*James 2:8-9*); Care for brethren (*James 2:15-17*); Doing good (*James 4:17*); Prohibition of alcohol (*1 Peter 4:3*); Modesty (*1 Timothy 2:9-10*); Sexual purity (*1 Thessalonians 4:3-4*; *Hebrews 13:4*); Forsaking the assembly (*Hebrews 10:25*)

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Accountability in the Family of God Includes Matters of Individuality

- ❖ Sexual immorality in Corinth – *1 Corinthians 5:1*
- ❖ General sin noticed – *Galatians 6:1-2, 6-8*
- ❖ There is a standard to live by even beyond the four walls of a church building, and we are obligated to hold each other accountable to it – *James 5:19-20*

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