

## “The Authority of the Bible”

INTRODUCTION: Growing Up as a Military Brat

### The Authority of the Bible

#### I. A Working Definition

“Authoritative words are words that i \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ on the lives of their readers and hearers. To say that the Bible is authoritative is to say that it g \_\_\_\_\_ all areas of human life.”

#### II. A Working Description

God is by nature the supreme authority in the universe, governing the lives of all his creatures. When he speaks, creatures must obey or bear the consequences of disobedience. The Bible is his word, and therefore human beings must obey all aspects of it in every area of their lives. /The Westminster Confession of Faith, 14.2, says that by saving faith, “a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which every particular passage [contains] ; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.”

This is not to say that the content of Scripture [is measured by] human standards of what is right and wrong, true and false. Rather, Scripture is itself the very standard, the ultimate criterion of what is true and right. /Nor should we restrict the authority of Scripture to some narrow sphere of human life, such as religion or worship. Scripture governs the religious life, but before God all of life is religion in the sense that we are to do everything to the glory of God. Scripture is the supreme guide as to how to glorify God in all of life. /So however difficult it may be in a social environment, the Christian must be bold to obey the Bible, not only in church, but in the workplace, in intellectual life, in science, philosophy, law, politics, the arts, culture, commerce, and entertainment. /Believers must, of course, respect the fact that Scripture focuses on redemption rather than general culture. But that redemption itself is cosmic: the removal of the fall’s curse from all creation and the reconciliation of all things to God. The Bible’s authority extends over all areas of human life.

John Frame, “The Bible’s Authority,” in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

#### III. Authoritative Leadership vs. Authoritarian Leadership

Authoritative	Authoritarian
With God: S _____ D _____	With Men: A _____ to Oneself

Among Men (including Jesus): Conferred by God as a s_____	Among Men: Conferred but a_____;
r_____	Or, Taken by F_____ or Deception
Purpose: To c_____ and s_____ those under them.	Purpose is p_____ to serve oneself at the e_____ of those under them.

#### IV. Understanding the Aspects of Authority, (all in Eph. 1:18-21)

- A. Authority of Position- [Gr. EXOUSIA] “one has the R\_\_\_\_\_ to speak or act.”
- B. Authority of Function – [Gr. DUNAMIS] “one has the P\_\_\_\_\_ to speak or act.”
1. Strength [Gr. KRATOS] “power to c\_\_\_\_\_”
  2. Might [Gr. ISCHUS] “e\_\_\_\_\_ capability”
  3. Dominion [Gr. KURIOTES] “power to g\_\_\_\_\_”
- C. Authority of Person – “one has the moral power by virtue of e\_\_\_\_\_
- c\_\_\_\_\_ and conduct to draw and influence others to willingly obey,
- f\_\_\_\_\_, and s\_\_\_\_\_.”

#### V. Jesus, “The Word,” and His Authority

- A. Luke 4
1. Nazareth – vv. 14-30, his closest friends and family – didn’t b\_\_\_\_\_ and o\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Capernaum – vv. 31-41, the demons obey
    - v. 32, “His message was with authority”
    - v. 36, “for with authority power he commands the unclean spirits”
    - v. 41, “He would not allow them (demons) to speak.”
- B. Luke 8: 22-25, Jesus Asleep in the Storm,—the wind and the waves obey
- C. Luke 7: The Centurion with Great Faith, vv. 1-9—a pagan outsider b\_\_\_\_\_;
- He understands the authority to d\_\_\_\_\_ and b\_\_\_\_\_. (see Matt. 18:18).
- D. Matt. 28: 18-20, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...MAKE DISCIPLES!”

**CONCLUSION** We live in a world that doesn’t understand these things. They live by an orientation that they have options and choices to consider and weigh out. Is it any wonder the world is filled with anxiety and fear. Having to

figure everything out on your own and hold it all together is exhausting. We are called to an obedience orientation; to have a responsive heart to the wisdom and direction of God's Word, the Bible, just as if it was from His mouth to our ear—actually it is. This is the path to blessing and peace. There is an old song...

## Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way;  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh or a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove The delights of His love, Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, And the joy He bestows, Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do; Where He sends. we will go, Never fear, only trust and obey.

## “The Authority of the Bible”

### INTRODUCTION

I was raised as, at least in my childhood, what was called a “military brat” or in my case, an “army brat.” Back then before there was Focus on the Family or any number of Christian ministries and resources, a lot of inexperienced dads transferred their military training into how they raised their kids. If you were told to do something you were expected to do it immediately without question and with a “yessir.” My friends, most of whom were also military brats, used to joke that if we were told the jump, the only acceptable question was “how high?”.

Discipline for disobedience was usually very swift and severe. For instance, when I was about 7 or 8 and losing my teeth my dad was a frustrated dentist who always wanted to “help pull out teeth.” I would let them hang on by a thread until they almost accidentally fell out. One night my brother and I were carrying on long after we were put to bed and my dad was getting quite frustrated with us. He finally said, “Brian, if I hear one more ‘Peep’ out of you, I’m coming in and getting that loose tooth out.” You can guess what happened next... “PEEP”. My dad jumps off the couch and takes a handful of strides down the short hallway from the living room to my bedroom, pins me to the mattress and instead of pulling the tooth out he pushed it backward with his thumb and down my throat. That was traumatic enough, but it quickly hit me that I wasn’t getting a quarter from the tooth fairy because I had nothing to put under my pillow.

Trans.:

A lot of us have had experiences with people in positions of authority that make our relationship with the concept of authority a difficult one. Add to that our flesh that has a bent to not want to yield to one in authority. So, we will have to try to set aside our negative experiences and emotional sense of things when we look at today’s essential element: The Authority of the Bible.

Trans: Let’s establish a working Definition and Description of the Authority of the Bible

## The Authority of the Bible

### I. A Working Definition

“Authoritative words are words that impose obligations on the lives of their readers and hearers. To say that the Bible is authoritative is to say that it governs all areas of human life.”

### II. A Working Description

God is by nature the supreme authority in the universe, governing the lives of all his creatures. When he speaks, creatures must obey or bear the consequences of disobedience. The Bible is his word, and therefore human beings must obey all aspects of it in every area of their lives. /The Westminster Confession of Faith, 14.2, says that by saving faith, “a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which every particular passage [contains] ; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.”

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intellectual life, in science, philosophy, law, politics, the arts, culture, commerce, and entertainment. /Believers must, of course, respect the fact that Scripture focuses on redemption rather than general culture. But that redemption itself is cosmic: the removal of the fall’s curse from all creation and the reconciliation of all things to God. The Bible’s authority extends over all areas of human life.

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Trans.: Maybe it will help us if we look at the aspect of authority in leadership and Compare the concept of Authoritative Leadership vs. Authoritarian Leadership

### III. **Authoritative Leadership vs. Authoritarian Leadership**

Authoritative	Authoritarian
With God: Self Derived	With Men: Assumed to Oneself
Among Men (including Jesus): Conferred by God as a stewardship responsibility	Among Men: Conferred but abused; Or, Taken by Force or Deception
Purpose: To care for and serve those under them.	Purpose is perverted to serve oneself at the expense of those under them.

### IV. **Understanding the Aspects of Authority, (all in Eph. 1:18-21)**

- A. Authority of Position- [Gr. EXOUSIA] “one has the RIGHT to speak or act.”
- B. Authority of Function – [Gr. DUNAMIS] “one has the POWER to speak or act.”
  - 1. Strength [Gr. KRATOS] “power to control”
  - 2. Might [Gr. ISCHUS] “exceptional capability”
  - 3. Dominion [Gr. KURIOTES] “power to govern”
- C. Authority of Person – “one has the moral power by virtue of exemplary character and conduct to draw and influence others to willingly obey, follow, and sacrifice.”

### V. **Jesus, “The Word,” and His Authority**

- A. Luke 4
  - 1. Nazareth – vv. 14-30, his closest friends and family – didn’t believe and obey
  - 2. Capernaum – vv. 31-41, the demons obey

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- B. Luke 8: 22-25, Jesus Asleep in the Storm,—the wind and the waves obey
- C. Luke 7: The Centurion with Great Faith, vv. 1-9—a pagan outsider believes; He understands the authority to direct and bind. (see Matt. 18:18).
- D. Matt. 28: 18-20, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...MAKE DISCIPLES!"

## CONCLUSION

We live in a world that doesn't understand these things. They live by an orientation that they have options and choices to consider and weigh out. Is it any wonder the world is filled with anxiety and fear. Having to figure everything out on your own and hold it all together is exhausting. We are called to an obedience orientation; to have a responsive heart to the wisdom and direction of God's Word, the Bible, just as if it was from His mouth to our ear—actually it is. This is the path to blessing and peace. There is an old song...

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Trust and obey, For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, Not a sigh or a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, Not a frown or a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove The delights of His love, Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, And the joy He bestows, Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do; Where He sends. we will go, Never fear, only trust and obey.