

Spiritual Authority

Original Design:

- We were designed to bear the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26)
- Created with a 'free-will'—that we might be image bearers of One who is Sovereign.
- Submission of our free-will allows for imprinting/discovering our intended design.
- The created beings in heavenly places were created/designed to worship and serve
- Satan (Lucifer)—designated cherub who covers—regarded equality with God as something to be grasped (Philippians 2:5-8—opposite of Jesus)
- In removing himself from submission—he became the usurper (a person who takes a position of power or importance illegally or by force)—the beginning of the rebellion.
- When satan attempts this with God—he is cast down (Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12:7-10) This was a disruption of position and purpose—for the sake of self.
- Satan is the author of rebellion which is the root of all sin.
- It is an act of rebellion to stand in opposition to one who has legitimate authority. It is the open resistance to an established governance.
- When satan attempted this with Eve—she forfeits who she is for who 'she could be' (Genesis 3)
- She becomes a receptor of the father of lies—conceiving a lie, believing a lie, receiving the penalty of that lie in the fruit of rebellious behavior.

Initial Command:

- Genesis 1:28: Fill the earth—subdue it— Rule over creation
- God gave dominion to Adam/Eve—they were designed to reign over the natural realm
- When we sinned—we forfeited rulership to satan. All who were 'in Adam'—became subject to sin, death, and satan

What is authority:

- It is the **ability to receive** and **use** God's power that flows from His indwelling Holy Spirit
- It is the ability, right and power to do something—possibly on behalf of another.
- It is bestowed from a higher power than self
- We were designed to display (image bearing) spiritual authority—even as we purpose to abide under a higher authority
- Authority differs from power—power resides within authority. Authority is granted/delegated

False Models of authority

- Taking dominion over others in an attempt to gain control rather than godly influence (control flows from a base of fear—rather than from any right to rule)
- False authorities establish false systems of governance that execute their will by force / law—and hierarchies. A hierarchy is a false authority.
- Kingdom of God is reversal of patterns of the kingdom of the world—greatness in the kingdom of God belongs to the One who is servant of all.

Regained in Christ:

- Jesus—the last Adam—restores us to our intended design and purposes (Col 1:13 authority of darkness)
- Romans 6:3-13
- I Corinthians 15:22-25, 45-49
- Modeled by Christ—lived in complete submission to the will of the Father—therefore gaining a name that is higher than any other name.
- **We are invited to a position of submission—our means of functioning with true spiritual authority. (Submission grants authority. Authority does not demand submission)**
- Authority is linked to obedience
- Matthew 28:18—He knew Who He was and Whose He was—He did the Father's will and sends us to do the same.

What Does Authority Look Like:

- God gave authority over the physical realm to Adam—Genesis 1:27-28
- Jesus gave it to His disciples—Luke 10:18-19 (Ephesians 1:19—placed us in position of authority—in Him)
- Given authority over the evil one—II Peter 1:3/ Luke 10:19/Luke 9:1/James 4:7
- Centurion—under authority—so recognizes it in another
- Seven sons of Sceva—no authority