

## The Authority of The Local Church? – 07/19/20

**TEXT- Eph 4:11-14** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers*

**INTRO – The pastor is to be a servant leader.**

**How did Paul exercise authority in the early church?**

**1. The Apostle Paul exercised his authority in a fatherly way**

**1 Co 10:33** *Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

**1 Co 4:15-16** *For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.*

- **A loving father expresses love and mercy to his children.**
- **Paul's fatherly authority is an example of God's care for us.**
- **Paul led the Corinthian church to make the corrections**

**2. Paul exercised his authority firmly, and with conviction. Paul refused to compromise the truth even to cultural considerations.**

**1 Cor. 5:1-2** *It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*

**1 Cor. 5:13** *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

**1 Cor. 6:1** *Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?*

**1 Cor. 6:5-7** *I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?*

**The example of marriage**

**1 Co 7:2-5** *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*

**Eph 5:22-25** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

**What kind of authority has been given to the church?**

**1.) The church has the authority to teach God's word**

**1 Co 2:12-13** *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

**2 Ti 2:2** *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

**2.) The church has authority to preach the Gospel – Mt. 28:19-20**

**3.) The church has the authority to disciple its members - Mt. 28:19-20**

**4.) The church has the authority to discipline its members**

**Mat 18:15-17** *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and*

**What are things God has NOT given the church the authority to do?**

**1.) The church does not have the authority to make laws that supersede the Bible.**

**2.) The church does not have the authority to force conversion.**

**3.) The church does not have political authority.**

**The kingdom of God, remains spiritual until the Lord returns**

**The qualifications of the pastor**

**1 Ti 1:12** *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

**1 Ti 3:2-7** *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

**Tit 1:5-14** *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order*

**The oversight by the pastor**

**1 Pe 5:1-4** *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that*



shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

**Tit 3:1-2** Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, 2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

#### **The respect for the pastor**

**1 Ti 5:17-20** Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. 19 **Against an elder receive not an accusation**, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

**1 Sam. 26:9** And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

**1 Ch 16:21-22** He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes, 22 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

#### **The accountability of the pastor**

**Heb 13:17** 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.

**CONCL –**

**Support the pastor**

**Pray for the pastor**

**Respect the pastor**

**Don't listen to criticism**