

Relating to Relevant Authority – Part 1

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I. The true religious authority is God.

A. Declared by the New Testament and Old Testament.

B. Unanimously declared by Christians and the Jews.

C. Reasons.

1. Because of His eternity.

a. All other authority is temporal. If other authority is good, they borrowed God's authority. If other authority is bad, they usurped God's authority. Yet no matter who they are, they must surrender it at least at death. Everything we possess is transitory.

b. There are some attributes that God can share, but others he cannot.

1) Self-existence.

2) Sovereignty.

3) Omniscience.

4) All-wisdom.

c. The attributes that God cannot share declare Him to be in all authority.

II. Authority exercised through God's Word.

A. Characteristics.

1. Indestructible.

2. God-breathed.

3. Eternal.

4. Unique above all other things. Nothing like it.

B. God's expression.

1. It is the infinite God's nature to express Himself to finite man.

2. There is sovereign authority in it with the power of life and death.

C. Not one iota of it will fail to come to pass.

D. The word comes down like a fierce man of war intent on destruction.

1. Too many treat the word too carelessly.
2. It is a unique thing uttered through printed words that should be handled fearfully.
3. God's Word gives life and takes it away.
 - a. Life comes through belief.
 - b. Belief comes through the Word-God expressing Himself through the language of man.

E. When we engage the Word, something happens in us-the eternal God interacts with finite man.

F. Nobody needs to defend the Word of God-we only need to preach it. The Word of God defends itself.

1. When God has spoken, let the world be silent because God has spoken it.
2. God will fulfill all He has spoken.
3. The power of the Word is enough to save a man. (Luke 16)
4. It gives sure hope with authority. (Isaiah 54)
 - a. Only when the mountains fall, will His mercy for us fail.
 - b. Now is the time by God's authority through His Word to receive His mercy.

III. Authority exercised through God's Son.

Application questions.

1. What reasons does the speaker give for ultimate authority resting in God alone? How does God's authority relate to His Word?

2. Describe God's Word. What are the qualities of the Word of God that makes it a sure thing?

3. As God's Word is unfailing, so is His mercy for us. How does this apply to you? How, as the speaker says can one "enter into" this mercy? As a Christian, how can one be "restored" to this mercy?
