

WHEN AUTHORITY IS USED FOR GOOD

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—March 10th, 2024

ECCLESIASTES 8:1-9

(ESV)

[1] Who is like the wise?

And who knows the interpretation of a thing?

*A man's wisdom makes his face shine,
and the hardness of his face is changed.*

[2] I say: Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him. [3] Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases. [4] For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?" [5] Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. [6] For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him. [7] For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? [8] No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. [9] All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.

INTRODUCTION

Authority, when wielded with godliness, is a gift from God.

Romans 13:1—*[1] Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

Matthew 20:25–26—*"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. [26] It shall not be so among you.*

Godly authority is a gift that God gives to his people in order to lead them to walk in holiness.

HOW AUTHORITY IS ESTABLISHED

God has established leadership among his people, in order to help his people overcome sin.

Deuteronomy 17:18–19—*[18] "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. [19] And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them..."*

Proverbs 29:2

*[2] When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

Godly leaders teach the people the word of God; and godly leaders model to the people the word of God.

2 Timothy 4:2—...*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

Hebrews 13:7—*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*

WHY AUTHORITY IS NECESSARY

Authority is necessary to keep us from doing evil.

Christ is our king.

2 Samuel 7:12–13—*[12] When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

1) Recognize Jesus as your lord and savior.

Matthew 7:22–23—*[22] On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' [23] And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

2) Recognize the church as an embassy of heaven on earth.

Ephesians 3:10—*[10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

3) Recognize that God gives churches pastors to lead them.

Hebrews 13:17—*[17] Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.*