

## **The Factor of Authority in the Body of Christ and in the Local Churches**

- Rom. 9:23 - In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- Matt. 28:18 - And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Eph. 1:22 - And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
- Eph. 1:23 - Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Heb. 4:16 - Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- Rev. 4:2 - Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne *there was* One sitting;
- Rev. 22:1 - And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev. 22:2 - And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

### Day 1

#### **I. God is the supreme authority**

➤ **God's authority is actually God Himself**

Rom. 9:21 – "... the potter has authority over the clay ..."

Rom. 9:22 – "... God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known ..."

- All authority is from God
- Knowing authority is an inward revelation, not an outward teaching

➤ **Being God alone is not adequate for Him to be the Head**

Acts 17:31 – "... He is to judge to world in righteousness by the man whom He has designated ..."

- God will not exercise His judgment in His administration alone
  - God needs an administration, to carry out His eternal purpose
  - God needs a government to deal with His enemy and all the evil powers
  - God as the creator would never lower His status to deal directly with Satan
  - God needs man, another creature to carry out God's eternal purpose and to deal with Satan
- In the Old Testament Christ was only the Son of God, not yet the Son of Man
- In God's economy for Christ to have the full headship, He needs two natures
  - the divine nature
  - the human nature
- The headship of Christ was not fully established in the Old Testament because Christ was not yet incarnated
  - by incarnation He picked up the human element
  - by being crucified He accomplished God's eternal purpose and defeated and destroyed God's enemy

➤ **The Lord Jesus was a man under authority**

- In His divinity – as the only begotten **Son of God**
  - had authority over all

- In His **humanity** – **as** the **Son of Man**
  - He humbled Himself (Phil. 2:7)
  - did the Father's will (John 4: 34; 6:38)
  - was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil, 2:8)
- After His **resurrection** – **as** the **King** of the heavenly kingdom
  - all authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him (Matt. 28:18)
- In Christ **ascension** – **as** the **Ruler** of the kings of the earth
  - the Ruler over all the ones in power (Rev. 1:5)
  - the Chief Ruler in the divine government for the fulfillment of God's eternal plan
  - inaugurated Him into the headship of the universe
- Now (in His **heavenly ministry**) – **as** the **Head** of the Body, the church
  - the headship of Christ is fully established
  - Head of every man
  - Head over all things to the church

✚ We need the heavenly light, vision and revelation, to **see the vision of the truth**  
 ✚ Lord open our inner eyes that we may see your eternal purpose

## Day 2

### II. **Christ is both the Head -**

- ✓ **Corporately** of the Body, the church (Col. 1:18)
- ✓ **Individually** of all the believers (Eph. 4:15)
- ✓ He is the Head directly of every one of us, and we all are under His authority
- **Christ to be the Head, corporately of the Body**
  - He has all the authority in the Body
  - the Body can move only at His direction
- **Christ is the Head, individually of all the believers**
  - we must know the **Body life** in order to be under His authority
  - we must submit to Him, as **members**, our only one Head
    - we are related directly to the Head
    - we have the same standing and there should be no intermediary members
    - we receive orders directly from the Head
  - we must honor and testify the unique headship of our exalted Christ
  - we must live in the Body
- **The authority of the Head flowing throughout the whole Body**
  - we need to recognize the authority in the Body
  - we need to care for the Body
  - we need to know the deputy authorities, carrying out the authority of the Head
    - the apostles (1 Cor. 12:28)
    - the elders (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 5:17)
  - we need to submit to the deputy authorities of the Head (Heb. 13:17)
  - we **must** submit to the Head directly (Eph. 5:24)

✚ Only Christ our Lord is the unique Head, and only He has the authority to direct the moves of the members of His Body.  
 ✚ We all need to go to the Lord, pray to seek the Lord's leading directly.  
 ✚ In the church there is no Head other than Christ, it is an **insult** to Him to have other heads or subheads.

## Day 3

1Cor. 14:40 - But **all things** must be done becomingly and **in order**.

### III. The authority in the **church**—the honoring of the unique headship of Christ.

- The **order of the church** comes from the authority in the church—honoring of the headship of Christ
  - the Head of the church is Christ the Lord
  - the authority in the church **is** the headship of Christ
    - the head holds up the body
    - without the head the body cannot stand
  - there is **no** human organization in the church but there is **a** spiritual order
- Only by **submitting to the headship of Christ** can we have the real practice of the church life.
  - to have a spiritual order in the church is to practice the real church life
  - by realizing the headship of Christ in a practical way

✚ We must realize, honor and respect the headship of the Lord.  
✚ Learn the lesson of always submitting ourselves to the headship of the Lord.  
✚ As members of the Body, glorify and honor the Lord Jesus by taking Him as the Head.

## Day 4

### IV. In the church God's authority is expressed and **represented** by the **apostles** and the **elders**

- God has appointed elders and apostles to be the authority in the church (1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 15:6; 16:4-5)
  - In order to **manifest** His authority in the church
    - **but** the elders and apostles have no authority in themselves
    - they have authority **only** as they stand under the authority of the Head
    - they exercise authority in the church **by** representing the authority of the Head
  - We must abandon hierarchy and kind of organization
- The office of the apostleship - universal (Romans 1:5)
  - There is **only one** office of apostleship
  - Gives the position and right to appoint elders (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)
  - To establish elders in every city that is to establish elders in every church
- The office of the eldership – local (Acts 20:28)
  - According to the leading of the Holy Spirit
    - not voted in by the congregation
    - appointed according to the maturity of life
    - care for the leadership and shepherding in the churches
  - For the administration of the local churches
    - scriptural principle of eldership is plurality
    - no definite leader, the headship of Christ is regarded, preserved, and respected
  - For representing and expressing God's authority (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
  - To shepherd, to take all-inclusive care of the flock, the church of God

- bear the burden of shepherding
- taking care of the situation of the flock and meeting the needs

✚ We need to obey the ones leading us and submit to them (Heb. 13:17)

## Day 5

### V. The divine government in the church today

- ✓ comes from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1-2)
- ✓ *set up in heaven (Rev. 4)*
- ✓ *come forward to the throne of grace, at the Holy of Holies (Heb. 4:16, footnote 1)*

#### ➤ The throne of grace – to share in God’s all-sufficient the flowing grace

Heb. 4:16 – “... come forward ... to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace ...”

- The flowing grace from the throne is the unique source of life supply
- For God to dispense Himself to us
  - as life
  - as the life supply
  - and as the all-sufficient grace
- The Lord Jesus reign in the churches through the flowing of His life as grace
  - reigning is through the flow of life
  - the more we partake of His life, the more authority we have
  - the Christ whom we live out will be our authority over others

#### ➤ The throne of authority – the divine administration, His headship

Rev. 4:2 – “... there was a throne set up in heaven ...”

- Both grace and authority are one for His divine administration
- The church is the place where God exercises His authority
- His authority and reign should have a ground in us
- We must submit to His authority
  - allow the Lord to be seated on the throne within us
  - allow Him to establish His kingdom and obtain dominion in our being
  - allow the power of the Lord to be expressed through us
  - allow the divine life to supply us

✚ We need to come to throne to drink from the water of life and to eat the tree of life for our life supply.

✚ We need to submit to the throne, so that we can share in His all-sufficient grace

## Day 6

#### ➤ The throne of God and of the Lamb – the source of the divine fellowship

Rev. 22:1-2 – “... a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.”

- The flowing water of life is a matter of fellowship and related to authority
  - the line of authority can be seen in the order and coordination of the members in the human body
  - the line of fellowship, the member is connected with other members in the body through the circulation of the blood

- every member renders a supply to the other members and receives a supply from other members
- God in the Lamb is the flowing out **as** grace for our enjoyment
- The flow of the **divine supply**
  - the river of the water of life is **for** our beverage
  - within this river grows the tree of life **for** our food

✚ We allow God and the Lamb to be enthroned in our being, to rule and reign in us, so that life will be manifested as power that supplies us inwardly.

✚ We must give Him the dominion.