

THINK

WELL

THE
AUTHORITY
OF SCRIPTURE

Ryan Pauly

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
BE AN AUTHORITY?

Hard Authority

The power to give orders and enforce obedience.

- **Extrinsic**
- **Hierarchical**
- **Commands obedience because it's punitive.**

Soft Authority

The power of influence.

- **Intrinsic**
- **Relational**
- **Persuades obedience rather than commands.**

God's authority is both hard and soft, extrinsic and intrinsic, obligatory and persuasive, hierarchical and relational.

WHAT IS THE INTERNAL
EVIDENCE FOR THE
BIBLE'S AUTHORITY?

The Bible claims...

1. Jesus asserted authority.

Scripture

“You have heard it said, but I say to you...”

“Truly, truly, I say unto you...”

“And when Jesus finished these saying, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.” - Matt. 7:28-29

The Bible claims...

- 1. Jesus asserted authority.**
- 2. Jesus trusted the Bible's authority.**

Scripture

- **Jesus refers to the OT as the present and eternal truth of God.**
- **Jesus assumes that OT prophecies must be fulfilled.**
- **Jesus treats the miraculous events of the OT as if they occurred exactly as written.**
- **Jesus never said anything about problems in the Scriptures.**

The Bible claims...

- 1. Jesus asserted authority.**
- 2. Jesus trusted the Bible's authority.**
- 3. Jesus conferred authority on his disciples.**

Scripture

“He called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.” - Matt. 10:1

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” - John 14:25-26

The Bible claims...

- 1. Jesus asserted authority.**
- 2. Jesus trusted the Bible's authority.**
- 3. Jesus conferred authority on his disciples.**

Scripture

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” - Matt. 28:18-20

HOW FAR DOES GOD'S
AUTHORITY EXTEND?

God has authority over...

1. The limits of reason

Our worldview determines the limits and standards for what we would consider reasonable.

If God exists, then our definition of what is reasonable must expand by its very nature.

God has authority over...

1. The limits of reason

2. Our understanding of reality

We tend to believe in only what we can see or prove, but a biblical worldview included spiritual entities including God himself.

“We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:18

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**

Christians are tempted to embrace the values and morals of the surrounding culture.

Following God means obeying him instead of culture.

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Entertainment**

The voices of entertainers speak authoritatively over such wide-ranging issues as abortion, the environment, and spirituality.

Popularity, however, is not the same as authority.

God claims authority over what voices we pay attention and insists that we filter out what is not true or not worth thinking about.

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Entertainment**
- 5. Our senses**

The Bible values our senses, but its authority extends beyond what we are able to verify with our senses.

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Entertainment**
- 5. Our senses**
- 6. Our emotions**

God commands that we love him, love others, and even love our enemies.

Truth is not determined by our feelings, what makes us comfortable, or how many people agree with us.

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Entertainment**
- 5. Our senses**
- 6. Our emotions**
- 7. Knowledge**

Biblical writers were enabled by the Holy Spirit at times to “write better than they knew” and better than the science of that day could grasp.

God has authority over...

- 1. The limits of reason**
- 2. Our understanding of reality**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Entertainment**
- 5. Our senses**
- 6. Our emotions**
- 7. Knowledge**
- 8. Governments**

In response to Pilate, Jesus said, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given to you." - John 19:11

Romans 13:1-2 says there is no authority except that which is from God.

Peter and the other apostles say, "We must obey God rather than men" in Acts 5:29

" THERE IS NOT A SQUARE INCH IN
THE WHOLE DOMAIN OF OUR HUMAN
EXISTENCE OVER WHICH CHRIST, WHO
IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL, DOES NOT
CRY, MINE!"

ABRAHAM KUYPER