

AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH AND HOW IT IS TO OPERATE.

(Kaitaia Combined Churches Service - 1/10/89 - EKB).

1. **Authority is the God-given right and ability to lead**, shepherd, teach, direct, protect, order, guide, in a measure control, oversee, correct and reprove other people.
2. **Authority is before power.** (I may have the power/ability to drive your motor car but not the authority. If I act without authority I will soon get into trouble.)
3. **Authority is from God initially.** *Ps 75: 6,7 Rom 13:1-7, Jn 19: 10,11, Mat 28 :18*
4. **Jesus had authority from God in full measure.**
Mat 5:21-24,27,28, and on through chapters 6&7
Mat 7:28,29 people recognised it.
Mat 8:16 demons recognised it.
Mat 8:26 wind and waves knew it.
Mat 9:2,6,8 His authority over sin.
Mat 9:9 Jesus' authority over the lives of men.
Mat 9:11,12, His authority over all criticism, *Is 54:17.*
Mat 28:18,19 Jesus said "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth",..
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....."
5. **Parents** have authority *Eph 6:1.*
Governments have authority *Rom 13:1-7.*
Husbands have authority *Eph 5:23.*
Employers have authority *Eph 6:5.*
Elders have authority *1Tim 5:17, Heb 13:17.*
6. **In various ways we all have authority** - *Lk 10:19, Mat 16:19, Mat 18:18.*
Jam 4:7 As we submit our lives to God's authority we have authority to resist the devil and cause him to flee.
Mk 16:17,18 Those who believe in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ have authority to pray for the sick, cast out demons, and speak with new tongues.
Mat 28:18,19 As followers of Jesus we have authority to go and make disciples of all nations and baptise them as directed, *Ac 1:8.*
Rom 12:5-8 According to the functional gifts given to each of us by God's grace we have authority and ability to minister in the Church and edify other believers.
7. In whatever way we have authority it is very important that **we use it in the right way.**
8. Jesus explains this in *Mat 20:25-28, Lk 22:24-27.*
First of all Jesus describes the wrong use of authority, the way it is often used in the world, in *Mat 20:25.* He says in the world the rulers "lord it over them", that is they use their authority to dominate, put under, subjugate, maybe manipulate or intimidate those over whom they have authority. In general they use their authority for their own benefit at others expense, as in *Daniel 3.*
9. Jesus describes **the right use of authority** in the Church and in the Kingdom in

Mat 20:26-28, Lk 22:26,27. He says that among His followers authority **must operate through service to others**. Authority must be used to benefit others as much as for the benefit of those who have it, in fact often at the expense of those who have it, as in *Jn 10:11*. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The shepherd has authority to lead, guide, feed, and protect the sheep. **Jesus used His authority to serve others.** *Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Mat 23:8-11, 1Tim 3:1.*

10. Paul said his authority was to build others up in their faith, *2Cor 10:8*, not to destroy them, *2Cor 13:10*.
11. Peter explains to elders, *1Pet 5:1-4*, that they are to use their authority to feed, or shepherd the flock of God as faithful under shepherds to the Chief Shepherd. They are to use their authority for the benefit of the sheep, not for selfish ends.
12. In *Phil 2:5-7* it says that though Jesus knew who He was and His authority, v6, He chose to lay aside His divine glory and splendour and take the form of a servant to bring to us His salvation and mercy.
13. At the end of the Last Supper, *Jn 13:1-17*, Jesus took the servant's role in washing His disciples' feet and showed that He requires us **to relate as servants to one another**. This is how we are to fulfil His command of *Jn 13:34,35*. Also *1Pet 5:5*.
14. *Gal 5:13* repeats this principle in saying **"by love serve one another"**.