



“The study of authority is not about developing a legalistic mindset, but it is about striving to glorify the Creator and honor His ways and thoughts.”

– Doy Moyer

In Their Own Words

**Jesus, His Apostles and
Original Intent**



**Christian Primitivism
in the Twenty-first Century**

*Thinking "Inside the Box"
About Restoring New Testament Christianity*

David Edwin Harrell, Jr.

Authority

*“... the Apostles were given specific authority to **define doctrine** and **set in order churches**. This authority was **perpetuated** in the inspired writing of the New Testament.”*

– Ed Harrell

Authority in Principle

God, as Creator (Gen. 1:1), exercises authority over all creation

Jesus has been given “all authority” (Mt. 28:18)

He reigns as **King**; He rules as **Lord (Acts 2:29-36)** **Head of the church (Col. 1:18)**

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)

Holy Spirit given to provide revelation and confirmation (John 14-16)

“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 14:26)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (16:13ff)

Direct line of authority from *Father to Son (via Holy Spirit) to Apostles*

Authority in Action

Jesus to the Apostles...

*“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, **after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.**” (Acts 1:1-2)*

How the Apostles understood their role...

*“When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has **now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.**” (Eph. 3:4-5)*

*“that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the **commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles**” (2 Pet. 3:2)*

Authority in Action

The Apostles understood they were setting the church “in order”

*“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might **put what remained into order**”
(Titus 1:5)*

*“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, **you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church** of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:14-15)*

*“I sent you Timothy... **to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.**” (1 Cor. 4:17)*

*“This is my **rule in all the churches**” (1 Cor. 7:17)*

*“we have no such practice, nor do **the churches of God.**” (1 Cor. 11:16)*

*“... about the other things **I will give directions** when I come.” (1 Cor. 11:34)*

*“Now concerning the collection for the saints: **as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.**” (1 Cor. 16:1)*

Authority in Action

How the church understood the Apostles' role...

*“And **they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)*

The church was built on the foundation of Apostolic authority

*“the household of God, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...” (Eph 2:19-20)*

*“So then, brothers, stand firm and **hold to the traditions that you were taught** by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.” (2 Thess. 2:15)*

*“**Follow the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13)*

Authority in Expectation (Col. 1)

When we pray for you (9-10) we ask that you be filled with:

- *“the knowledge of His will”* – a safeguard against unrevealed ideas
- *“all spiritual wisdom”* – a safeguard against human wisdom
- **All spiritual “*understanding*”** – to guide in a Christian’s decision making
 - So that you will know how *“to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”*
 - So that you will know what is *“fully pleasing to Him”*
 - So that you will bear fruit *“in every good work”*
 - How do we know what is a good work?
 - *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*
- **Thus, increasing in your knowledge of God (10)**

Authority in Expectation (Eph. 5)

So then, be very careful how you walk (15-17)

- Look carefully

- The wise look
- Those that walk

- Determining a

- Don't be foolish

- "no one comp

HELPS Word-studies

199 *akribōs* (from *akribes*, "the high point, *extreme*," see **195** /*akribeia*, "highly accurate") – properly, extremely accurate, very exact; "*more (very) accurate*" because **researched down to the finest detail** ("factually precise").

This root (*akrib-*) refers to gaining *exact information* with the *highest level* of accuracy ("exactness") and is **acquired by probing investigation** to provide a *comprehensive circumspect* (precise) view in *strict adherence* to the facts.

["The verb is formed from *akros*, 'at the point' or 'end.' The idea is, therefore, he '*ascertained to the last point*,' **denoting the exactness of the information** rather than the diligence of the search for it" (*WS*, 21).]

(16)

Authority

“The Apostles were chosen by Jesus to be the revealers of his will. Their actions and teachings were not arbitrary or incidental; they were intentional and authoritative. The practices they ordained were in accord with Divine will. It was on this foundation that the church was built.”

– Ed Harrell

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