

Study Guide

Building Blocks of the Church

Chapter 5 – Authority in the Church.

Questions for Discussion

1. Discuss ways in which men and systems intersect / undermine the relationship between Jesus and the believer and Jesus and the church

2. How does one balance the Priesthood of Every Believer, Jesus' headship of every individual and submission to leaders?

3. Is it Biblical for leaders to claim authority and demand that people submit to them?

4. What are the differences between the following forms of authority:
 - a. Delegated authority (leaders appointed by a higher level above them). Compare this with the authority of the policeman. Who gives him authority and who backs him? Can this be applied to the church?

 - b. Positional authority (I'm the boss 'cause i say so or because I have the title)

 - c. Relational or earned authority (See 1Corinthians 4:15)

5. How can the leader be a servant and have authority at the same time?

6. Are titles so wrong? Why do we need titles?

7. Is there a difference between “The Apostle Paul” and “Paul an Apostle”? If so, what is the difference? (Rom 1:1, 1Cor 1:1, 2Cor 1:1, Gal 1:1, Eph 1:1, Col 1:1, 1Tim 1:1, 2Tim1:1, Titus 1:1)

8. There is one situation where leaders need to enforce their position and ordination/appointment. What could justify or require such action?

9. Discuss some of the ways leaders could abuse their authority

10. Discuss some of the ways believers could abuse their leaders

11. What should our attitude be towards Godly leaders?

12. Discuss some of the ways Godly leaders can be helped, supported and encouraged?

Additional resources

Articles:

1. Sheep that devour their shepherds
2. Titles
3. From my heart

MP3s

1. Authority in the Church

Obtainable at: <http://antonbosch.org/tapes2006.html>