

FCPO Bible Study on Authority

Introduction: On March 2nd 1970 I was sworn in, along with 134 others, as a Police Officer. Fortunately they didn't just give us a star and gun and turn us loose on the streets. We had to be trained and evaluated before we were allowed to actually enforce any laws. What makes this change from "average citizen" to "enforcer of the law" possible?

I. Authority comes from somewhere:

The Centurian:

*(Mat 8:9 NIV) For I myself **am a man under authority**, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

"Deputy" Saul:

*(Acts 9:1,2 NIV) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and **asked him for letters** to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, **he might take them as prisoners** to Jerusalem.*

II. Police Authority:

A. Comes from government.

Constitutional powers delegated to the states under the 10th Amendment.

Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth edition, page 1156:

Police power. *An authority conferred by the American constitutional system in the Tenth Amendment, U.S. Const., upon the individual states, and, in turn, delegated to local governments, through which they are enabled to establish a special department of police; adopt such laws and regulations as tend to prevent the commission of fraud and crime, and secure generally the comfort, safety, morals, health, and prosperity of the citizens by preserving the public order, preventing a conflict of rights in the common intercourse of the citizens, and insuring to each an uninterrupted enjoyment of all the privileges conferred upon him or her by the general laws.*

B. Ultimately from God.

*Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights... **That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted** among Men deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed..."*

*(Rom 13:1-5 NIV) Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, **for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.** Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

*For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. **For he is God's servant to do you good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. **He is God's servant**, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.*

III. Christ's Authority:

*(Mat 7:28,29 NIV) When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because **he taught as one who had authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.*

*(Mat 28:18 NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**"*

Authority to heal the sick and forgive sins:

*(Mat 9:6 NIV) But so that you may know that **the Son of Man has authority** on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*

Authority over evil spirits:

(Mark 1:27 NIV) The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

IV. Believer's Authority: *Delegated to Christians:*

*(Mat 10:1 NIV) He called his twelve disciples to him **and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.***

*(Mark 16:15 NIV) He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.**"*

*(Rev 2:26 NIV) To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, **I will give authority over the nations—***

*(Rev 20:4 NIV) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given **authority to judge.** And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God.*

V. Our Obligation to those in Authority:

*(1 Tim 2:1,2 NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that requests, **prayers, intercession and thanksgiving** be made for everyone—for kings **and all those in authority**, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

Authority (Worksheet)

(Mat 8:9 NIV) For I myself **am a man under authority**, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

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