

MESSAGE OUTLINE

SUNDAY, March 12, 2023



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **AUTHORITY**
Pastor Gary L. Stump
Luke 7:1-10

What do you think when you hear the word "authority?"

- Christians today are looking for authority through politics
- "Constantinian Error" –connection between the church and political power
- Trying to enforce power, not using Biblical authority

GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY

Year	Estimated Christians Worldwide	Growth Rate
33 AD	120	N/A
100 AD	25,000	8.3%
313 AD	20,000,000	3.4%
2023 AD	2,400,000,000	0.3%

What can Jesus teach us about authority?

Authority = power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior; the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

Power and Authority are not to be confused.

Matthew 7:28–29 (NLT) When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,²⁹ for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

A Centurion understands authority

Luke 7:1–10 (NLT) When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum.² At that time the highly valued slave of a Roman officer was sick and near death.³ When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave.⁴ So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. "If anyone deserves your help, he does," they said,⁵ "for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us."⁶ So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, "Lord, don't trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor.⁷ I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.⁸ I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, "I tell you, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!"¹⁰ And when the officer's friends returned to his house, they found the slave completely healed.

Jesus derives His authority from His Father

John 12:49–50 (NLT) "I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it."⁵⁰ And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say."

Authority over evil

Luke 4:36 (NLT) Amazed, the people exclaimed, "What authority and power this man's words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!"

Authority to forgive sin

Luke 5:24 (NLT) "So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

Jesus' authority questioned

Luke 20:1–8 (NLT) One day as Jesus was teaching the people and preaching the Good News in the Temple, the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders came up to him. ² They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" ³ "Let me ask you a question first," he replied. ⁴ "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" ⁵ They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask why we didn't believe John. ⁶ But if we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet." ⁷ So they finally replied that they didn't know. ⁸ And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

Authority of His own life

John 10:18 (NLT) "No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

Authority that leads to humble service

John 13:3–5 (NLT) Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

Source of Human Authority

Psalms 8:3–6 (NLT) When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? ⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority.

Delegated authority

Genesis 1:28a (NLT) Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it."

Family Authority

Ephesians 5:22 (NLT) For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord... ^{6:1} Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.

Government Authority

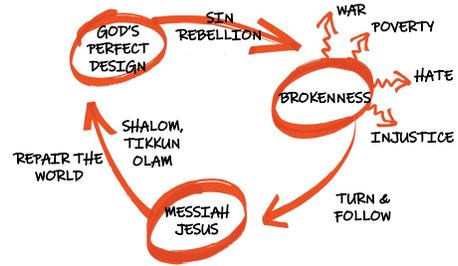
Romans 13:1 (NLT) Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Church Authority

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT) Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

Authority of Gospel truth

Matthew 28:18–19a (NLT) Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations."



Authority of a righteous life

Authority of the Holy Spirit to bring light in darkness

Delegated Authority in Tikkun Olam ("repairing the world")

Authority of shalom (wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, carrying with it the implication of permanence)

James Davidson Hunter describes the three ways that Christians have related to the culture: Defensive Against, Relevance To, and Purity From. He argues preferred posture should be "Faithful Presence Within."

SO WHAT? Will you exercise godly authority?

"If we would indeed learn how to obey God, we would then have no trouble recognizing on whom God's authority rests." –Watchman Nee

Watchman Nee says...

1. Have a spirit of obedience
2. Practice obedience
3. Learn to exercise delegated authority

"Faithful presence within"

Jeremiah 29:4–7 (NLT) This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵ "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶ Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷ And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."



ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, March 12, 2023

SPECIAL NOTE: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY 2:00AM—SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR SO YOU WON'T BE LATE FOR WORSHIP!

1. CANCELLED WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS THIS WEDNESDAY. Both Matt and Gary will be out of town.

2. LADIES BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY @ 9:30am—at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers). Studying **Psalms** using David Helm's One-to-One method.

3. EASTER SCHEDULE: Easter is getting close, so we want you to be aware of our schedule.

- April 7 Good Friday Service at 7:00PM
- April 9 Resurrection Sunday Service at 10:30AM

4. 2023 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR OCTOBER 20-31, 2023—Walk where Jesus walked and see the Bible come alive as Pastor Gary and our good friend Dr. Moshe Loewenthal lead us on this incredible tour. Estimated cost: \$3,950 per person (double occupancy).

5. MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 6-8pm: Dinner provided.

6. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY—2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's house (14079 Clifton Ct., Fishers).

7. SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS—**High School** (Grades 9-12) June 12-16. **Middle School** (Grades 6-8) June 21-25. See Pastor Jerry for more info.

8. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.

9. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.

