The Challenge of
Authority
Matthew 21:23-27

The Jews Understood

- *You have to have authority to do things*
- *Only someone in charge can make the rules*

for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

{Matthew 7:29}

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented.” Jesus *said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion said, “[Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does *it*.”

{Matthew 8:5-9}

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, pick up your bed and go home.”

{Matthew 9:6}

Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them **authority** over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness

{Matthew 10:1}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

- *It Begins with God*

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God**, and those which exist are established by God.

{Romans 13:1}

“Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his Maker— An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making *say*, ‘He has no hands’?

{Isaiah 45:9}

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

{Genesis 2:24}

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

{Ephesians 6:4}

Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

{Romans 13:2-4}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

❖ *It Begins with God*

✓ *God's Authority Trumps All Authority*

✓ *God's Authority Cannot Be Improved Upon*

If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.

{Exodus 20:25}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

❖ *It Begins with God*

- ✓ *God's Authority Trumps All Authority*
- ✓ *God's Authority Cannot Be Improved Upon*
- ✓ *Operating without God's Authority Gets You in Trouble*

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, **which He had not commanded them**. And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

{Leviticus 10:1-2}

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

{Matthew 7:21-23}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

- *It Begins with God*
- *God gave authority to Jesus*

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

{Matthew 28:18}

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

{Ephesians 1:20-22}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

- *It Begins with God*
- *God gave authority to Jesus*
- *Jesus gave authority to the Apostles*

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

{John 13:20}

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

{Matthew 16:19}

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

{1 Corinthians 11:23}

Who Has the Right to Set the Rules?

- *It Begins with God*
- *God gave authority to Jesus*
- *Jesus gave authority to the Apostles*
- *The Apostles wrote the authority in the Word*

If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

{1 Corinthians 14:37}

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

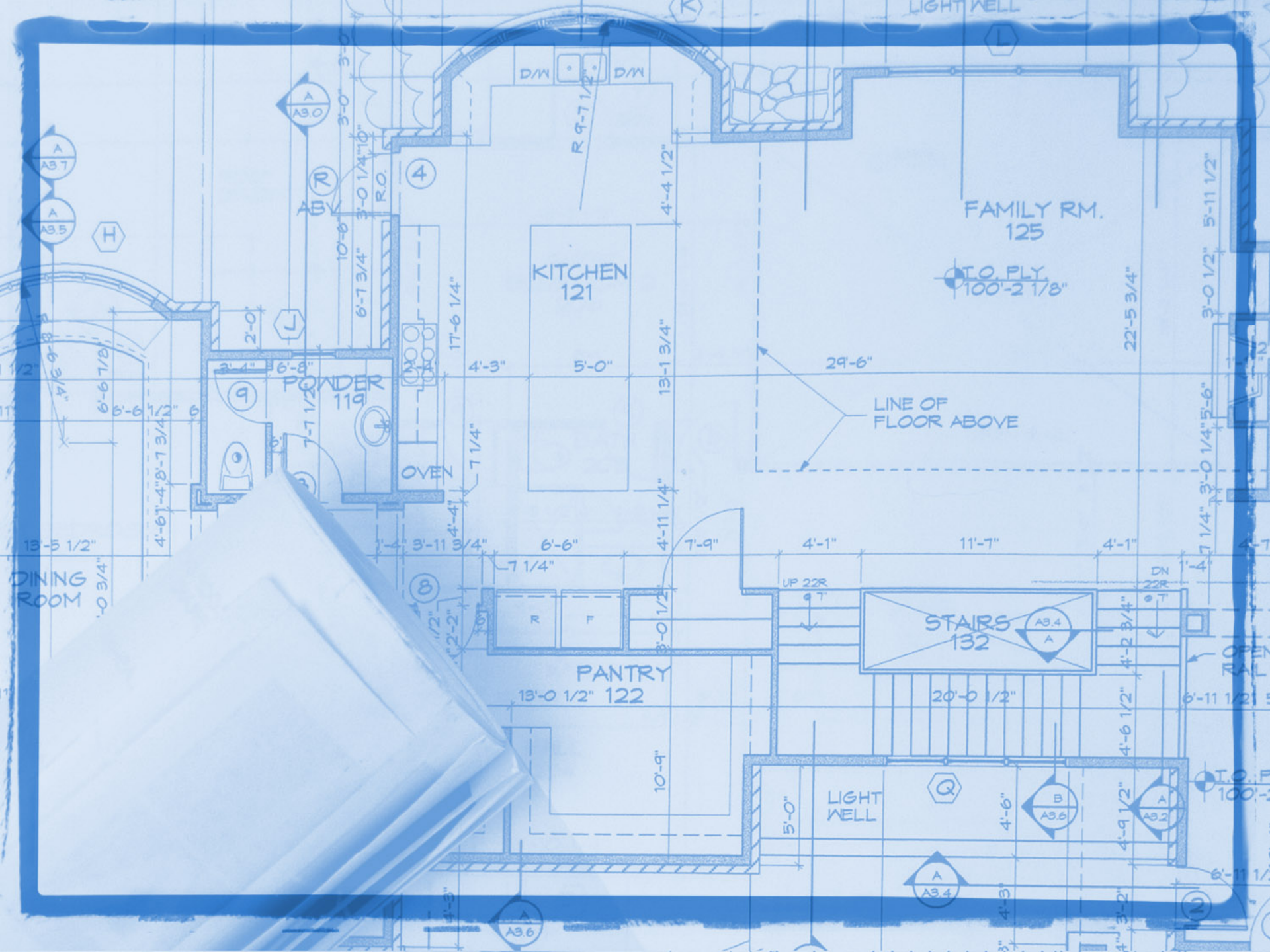
{Acts 2:42}

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

{1 Thessalonians 2:13}

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

{Acts 17:11}


LIGHT WELL
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125
T.O. PLY.
100'-2 1/8"
KITCHEN
121
POWDER
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OVEN
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LINE OF
FLOOR ABOVE
DINING
ROOM
PANTRY
122
STAIRS
132
UP 22R
DN 22R
LIGHT
WELL
OPEN
RAIL
13'-5 1/2"
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According to all that I am going to show you, *as* the **pattern** of the tabernacle and the **pattern** of all its furniture, just so you shall construct *it*.

{Exodus 25:9}

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

{Philippians 4:9}

Two Thoughts:

- *Every Generation Will Ask Questions*
- *Every Generation Has to be Taught God's Word*

preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with **great patience** and instruction.

{II Timothy 4:2}

1. Who has authority?

2. Upon what basis does he have authority

3. How does he make his authority known

4. What do we do in order to establish what is authorized?

5. Will I submit?