

AUTHORITY

Lesson one

1. Authority Defined

AUTHORITY

Authority Defined

“The power to influence or command thought, opinion or behavior.”

Webster’s New
Collegiate Dictionary, p.
59.



AUTHORITY

Authority Summary

1. It involves power both to command and enforce obedience.



AUTHORITY

Need for **Authority**

- The consequences of a lack of authority are serious.



AUTHORITY

Consequences

- Chaos and anarchy would exist.



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Consequences

- Evil would prevail.
- Society as we know it, would break down.



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Consequences

- No sense of responsibility could exist on any level or in any area.



AUTHORITY

Judges, book of

- “In those days there was no King in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”



JUDGES 21.25

AUTHORITY

Man has been
Created as a **F**ree
Moral **A**gent.



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While man has the capacity within him; the authority for him to make the distinction between “good” and “evil” is from without.



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The absence of universal conformity to a single concept of morality and religious practice indicates that the knowledge of right and wrong does not exist within him. It must come from outside of him.



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Conformity –
“compliance with
standards, rules,
or laws.”



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Three Types of Conformity

1. Compliance – changing one's behavior to fit within the social norm (with request)
 2. Obedience -
 3. Acceptance -

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1. Compliance – changing one’s behavior to fit within the social norm (with request)
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3. Acceptance -

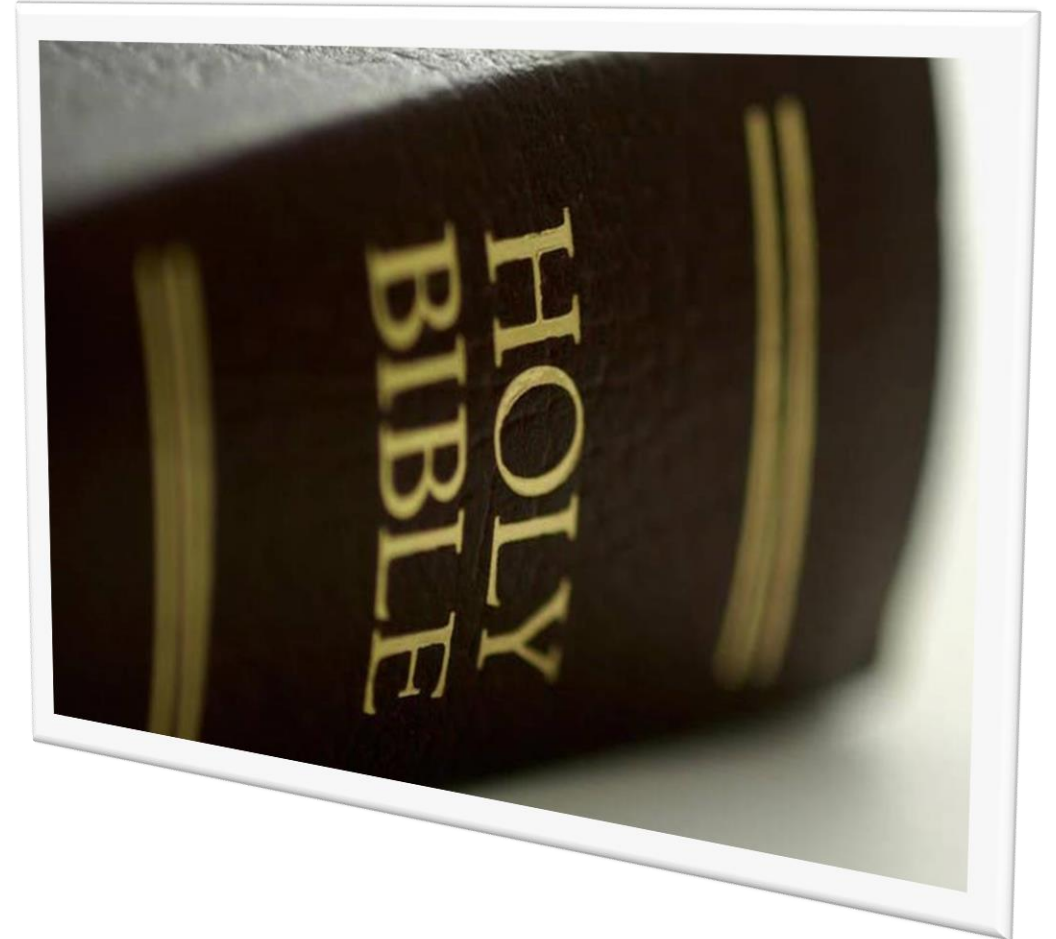
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Three Types of Conformity

1. Compliance – changing one’s behavior to fit within the social norm (with request)
2. Obedience – conforming to expectations (similar to “compliance”)
3. Acceptance – publically changing behavior to fit within the group

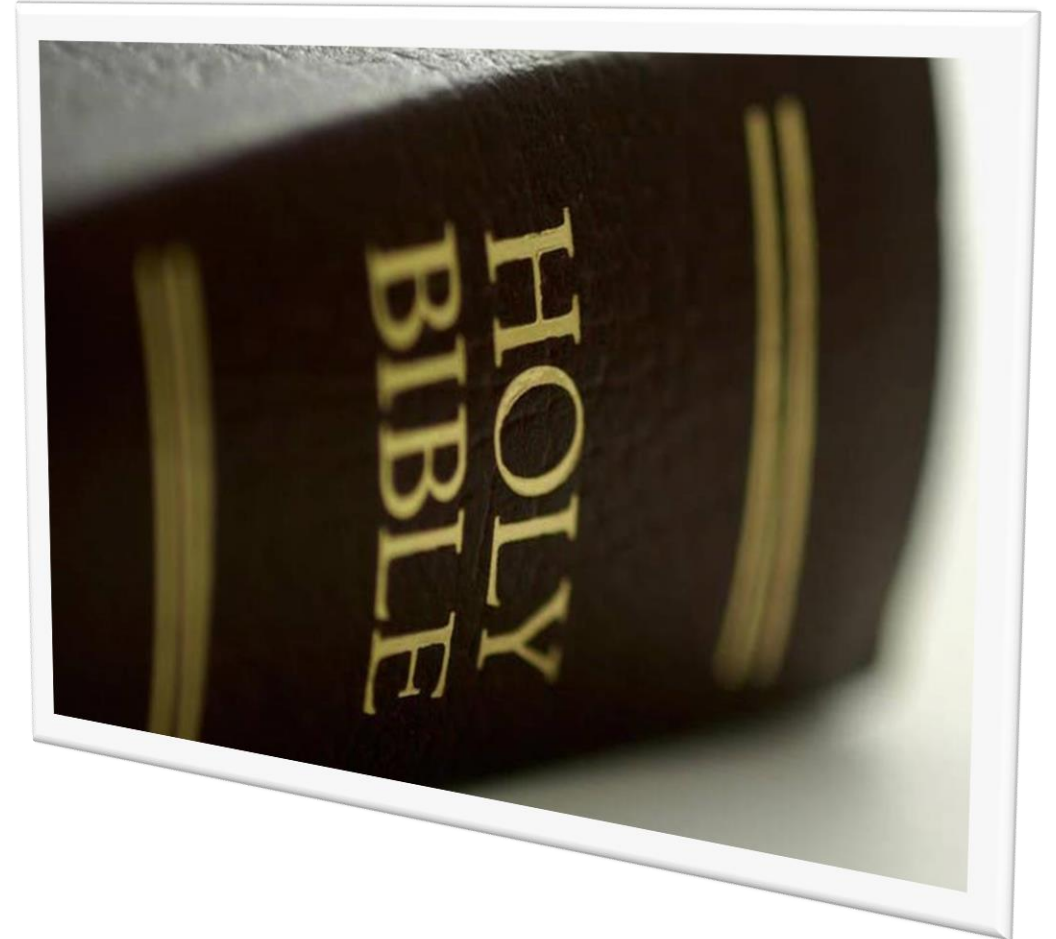
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Without **G**od – man became foolish (Romans 1.22), unclean (v.24), vile in his passions (v.26) and debased (reduction in value and or quality) in mind (v.28).



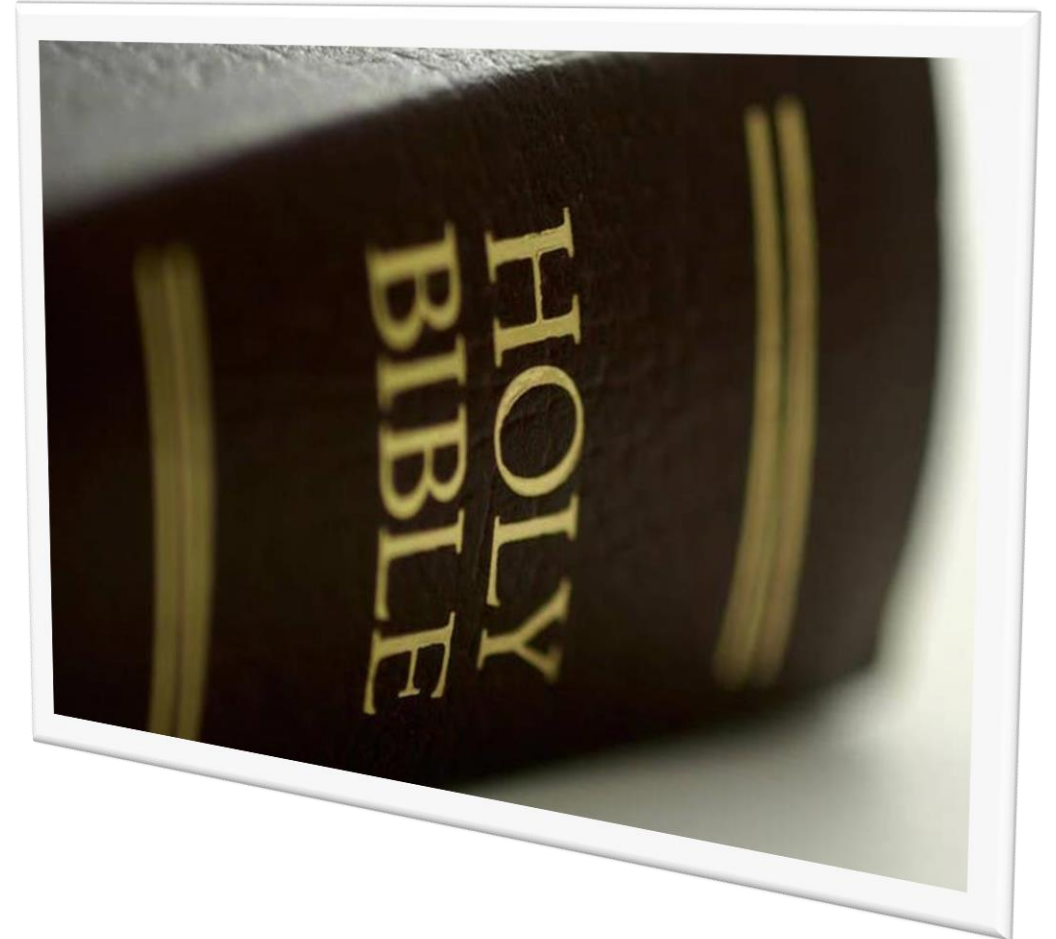
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Without God – (1 Corinthians 1.18-21)
– “the wisdom of man is foolishness in comparison to the wisdom of God.



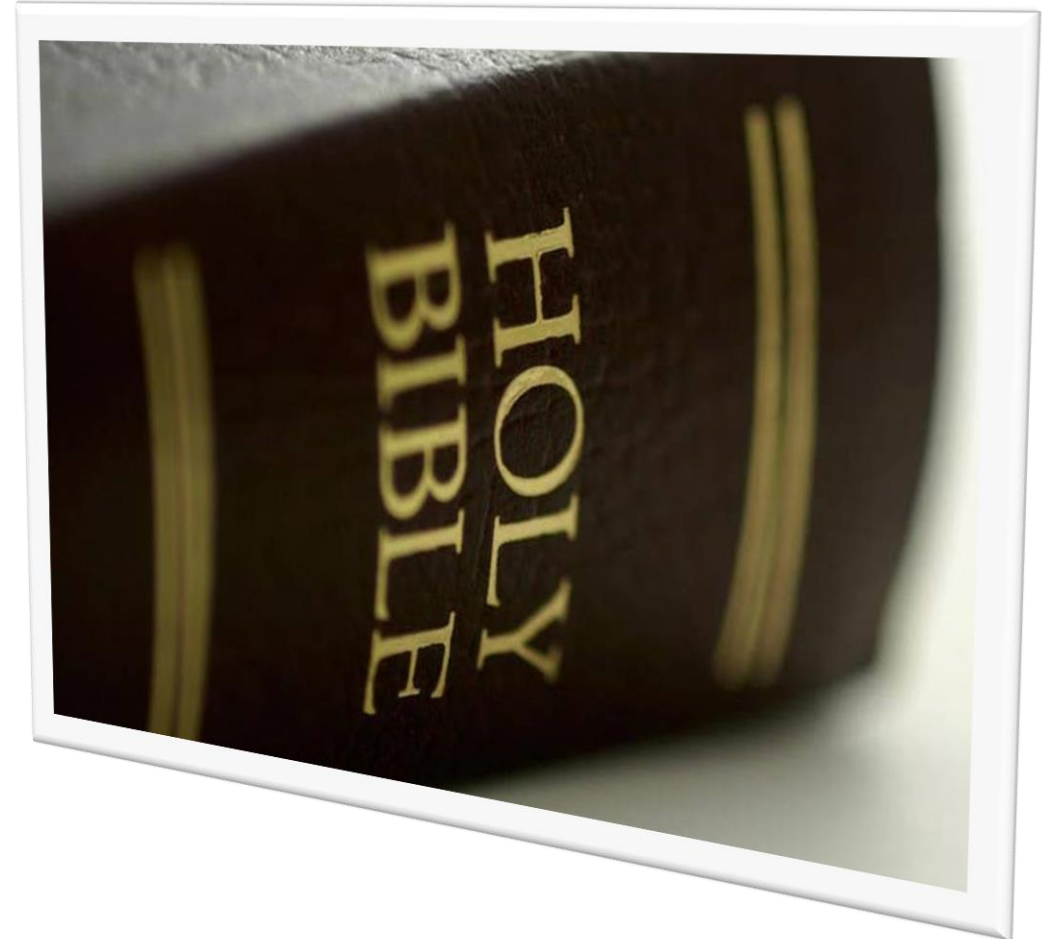
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Without God –
(Ephesians 4.17-19) –
The world apart from
God lives in futility with
their understanding
darkened because of
ignorance.



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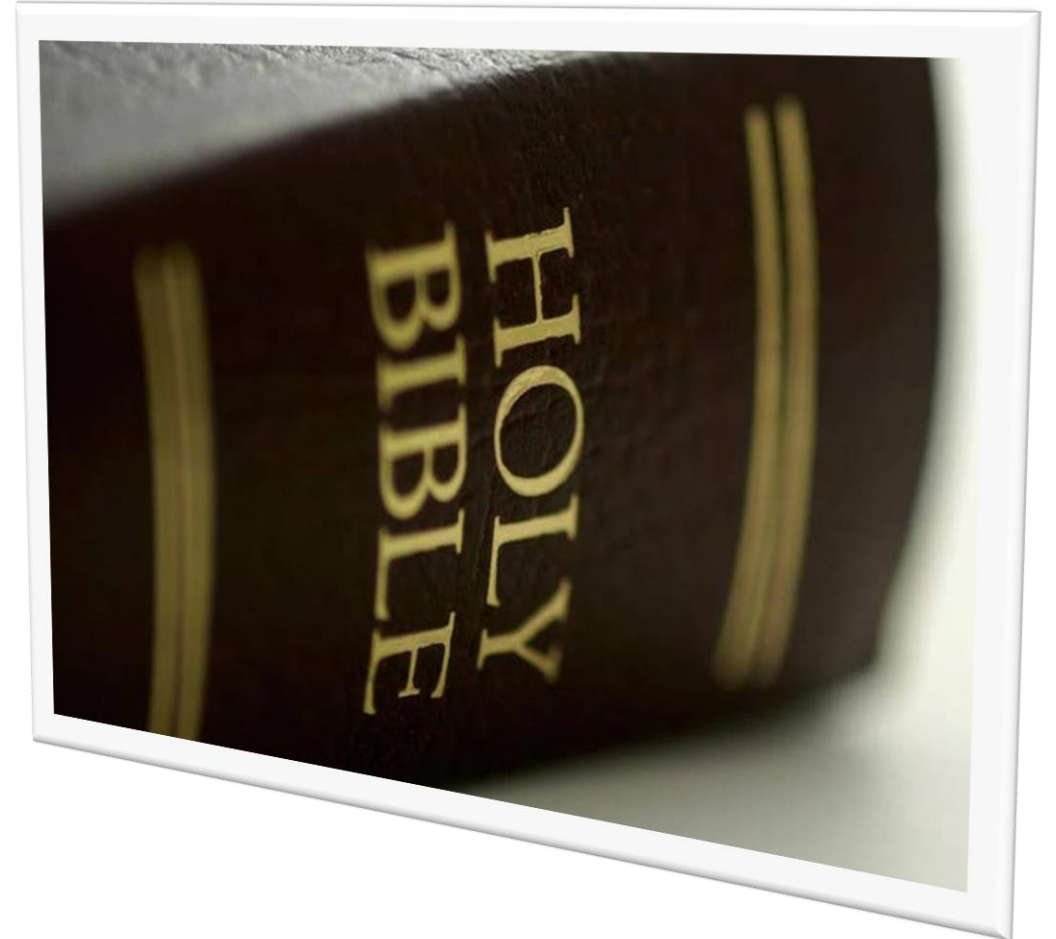
Without Authority –
Most of the serious consequences which exist when there is a lack of authority in society would likewise occur if there were no authority in the spiritual realm.



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Without Authority

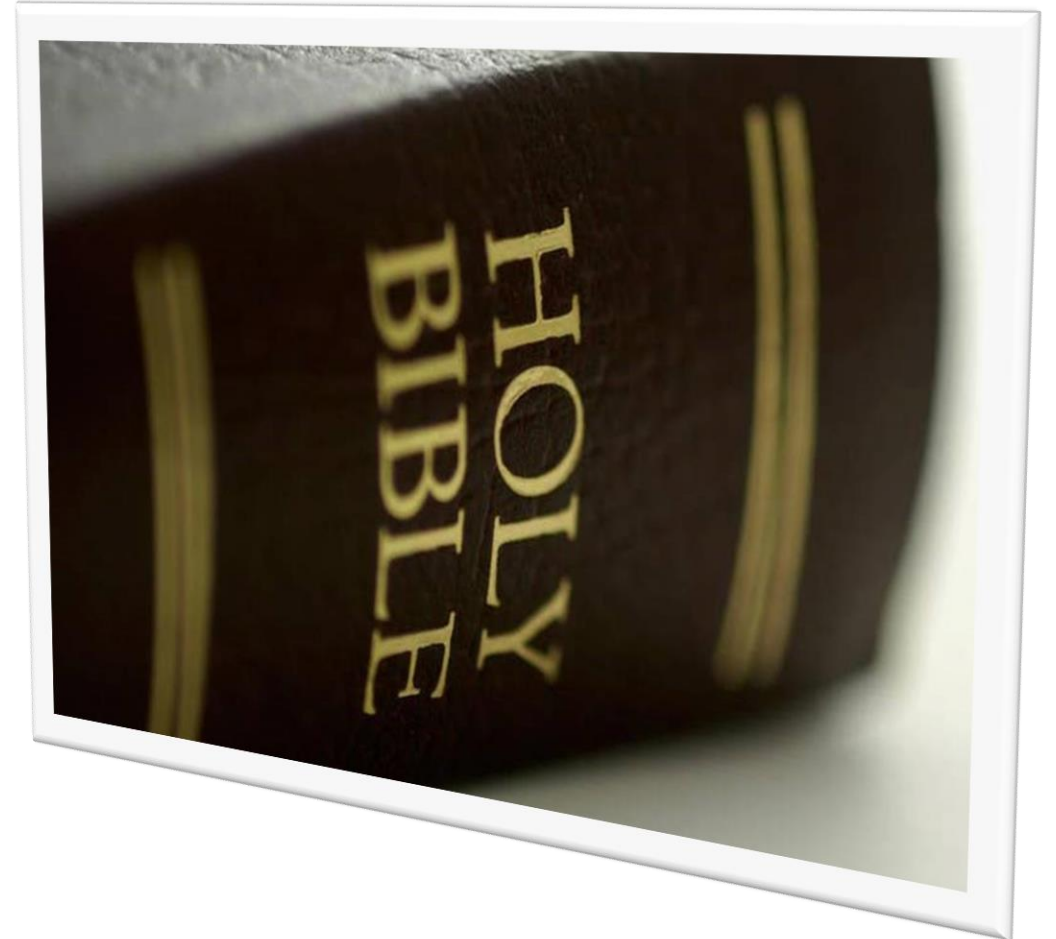
1. Without authority, religion would be completely meaningless.



AUTHORITY

The need to **R**espect
Authority

- Respect for authority
is the exact equivalent
of respect for God.



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The need to
Respect Authority

1. One cannot
respect God and
despise authority.

AUTHORITY

The need to **R**espect
Authority

2. Conversely, one cannot truly respect authority without believing in God.

AUTHORITY

The effects of
Respecting **A**uthority
include the following:

1. All laws
immediately become
important.

AUTHORITY

The effects of
Respecting **A**uthority
include the following:

2. Obedience
becomes a way of life.

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The effects of
Respecting **A**uthority
include the following:
3. Character and self-
discipline are
produced.

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**Authority in the Spiritual Realm is not
Subjective**

Why? – Because man has neither the
ability nor the **right** inherent within him
to be his own authority.

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Jeremiah 10.23 –
“It is not in man
to direct his own
steps.”

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Proverbs 14.12 –

“There is a way
that seems right
to a man. But its
end is the way of
death.”

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Judges 17.6 – In the days of the judges of Israel much evil abounded because “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

AUTHORITY

Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **thoughts**
and **think so's**.
Isaiah 55.8, 9.

AUTHORITY

Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **feelings**.
Jeremiah 17.9.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **reasonings**.
Proverbs 14.12.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **traditions.**

Matthew 15.13.

AUTHORITY

Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **wisdom**. 1
Corinthians 1.21;
2.1-13.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **pleasures**.
Galatians 1.10, 11.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **opinions of
family, ancestors.**
Matthew 10.37-39.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **conscience**.

Acts 23.1; 22.4, 5.

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Yet in defiance of
the Scriptures:

The standards of
men have included
his own **partial**
understanding of the
truth. Acts 20.26, 27.

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All of established bin religion by men are false standards.

Since the wisdom of men is not from above, it is “***earthly, sensual, demonic.***”

James 3.15.

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All of standards
established in religion
by men are false
standards.

We must not teach as
doctrine the
commandments of man
– they make **worship**
vain. Matthew 15.7-9.

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What we have just discussed is subjective (adjective) . (meaning) “based on or influenced by personal feelings or opinions.”

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Of necessity,
authority must be
determined either
subjectively
(internally, within
man) or **objectively**
(externally, outside
of man).

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Jesus Himself views
these 2-choices as
the only
possibilities to
determine
authority.

Matthew 21.23-27

AUTHORITY

Jesus asked the
Jews if the
baptism of John
had its source
with heaven or
men.

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Had there been a
3rd alternative
available, those
embarrassed Jews
would have
offered it.

AUTHORITY

**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

AUTHORITY

**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

Meaning – it must
come from a Divine
source (not
human).

AUTHORITY

**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

Meaning – it must
come from a
supernatural being
– God.

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**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

With God there is
no higher –
greater source.

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**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

Due to God's
greatness and
superiority – all
authority resides
with Him.

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**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

God's position is a
position of absolute
supremacy.

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**Authority in the
Spiritual realm is
Objective.**

Because He is God.

1 Corinthians
15.24-28.

AUTHORITY

God is - -eternal –
self-existent.

Deuteronomy
33.27

AUTHORITY

**God is –
omniscient –
limitless wisdom
and knowledge.**

1 Samuel 2.3; 1
John 3.20.

1 Samuel 2.3 –
“Talk no more so very
proudly;
Let no arrogance come
from your mouth,
For the LORD *is* the God
of knowledge;
And by Him actions are
weighed.”

AUTHORITY

**God is –
omniscient –
limitless wisdom
and knowledge.**

1 Samuel 2.3; 1
John 3.20.

1 John 3.20 –
“For if our heart
condemns us, God is
greater than our
heart, and knows all
things.”

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Isaiah 46.9-11 –

⁹ “Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’

¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken *it*; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed *it*; I will also do it.

AUTHORITY

**God is –
omnipotence –
matchless power
and strength.
Revelation 19.6;
Hebrews 11.3**

Omnipotent
comes from *omni-*
meaning “all”
and *potent* meaning
“power.”

AUTHORITY

God is –
omnipotence –
matchless power
and strength.
Revelation 19.6;
Hebrews 11.3

Revelation 19.6 –
“And I heard, as it were,
the voice of a great
multitude, as the sound
of many waters and as
the sound of mighty
thunderings, saying,
“Alleluia! For the Lord
God Omnipotent reigns!”

AUTHORITY

God is –
omnipotence –
matchless power
and strength.
Revelation 19.6;
Hebrews 11.3

Hebrews 11.3 –
“By faith we
understand that the
worlds were framed by
the word of God, so
that the things which
are seen were not
made of things which
are visible.”

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Conformity –
“compliance with
standards, rules,
or laws.”



AUTHORITY

**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

1 Peter 1.16

1 Peter 1.16 –
“...because it is
written, “Be holy, for I
am holy.”

AUTHORITY

**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

Titus 1.2

Titus 1.2 –
“...in hope of eternal
life which God,
who cannot lie,
promised before time
began,”

AUTHORITY

**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

Titus 1.2

**Righteousness –
(meaning) – “the
character or
quality of being
right or just”**

W.E. Vine’s p.970

AUTHORITY

**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

Righteousness –
(meaning) – “it was
formerly spelled
rightwiseness
which expresses the
meaning”

W.E. Vine’s p.970

AUTHORITY

**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

Romans 3.5 “the
righteousness of God”
– meaning essentially
the same as His
faithfulness or
truthfulness; that
which is consistent with
His own nature and
promises. (dikaiosune)

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**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

2 Peter 1.1 - the
righteousness of our
God and savior Jesus
Christ is the **righteous**
dealing of God with sin
and with sinners on the
ground of the “Death of
Christ.”

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**God is – perfect
in holiness and
righteousness.**

Hebrews 5.13 – is probably the Gospel, and the Scriptures as containing the Gospel; wherein is declared the righteousness of God in all its aspects.

AUTHORITY

Consequences of
God as Ultimate
Authority – **God**
alone has the
inherent right to
command.

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Consequences of
God as Ultimate
Authority – the only
kind of authority
man has is
**delegated
authority.**

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Consequences of
God as Ultimate
Authority – no
human has either
the right or power
to assume to be
equal with **God**.

Isaiah 55.8-9 –

⁸ “For My thoughts *are* not
your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My
ways,” says the LORD.
⁹ “For *as* the heavens are
higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than
your ways,
And My thoughts than your
thoughts.

AUTHORITY

Consequences of
God as Ultimate
Authority – earthly
governments
receive their right
to make and
enforce civil law
from **God**.

Romans 13.1 –
“Let every soul
be subject to the
governing authorities.
For there is no
authority except from
God, and the
authorities that exist
are appointed by God.”

AUTHORITY

Consequences of
God as Ultimate
Authority – earthly
governments
receive their right
to make and
enforce civil law
from **God**.

John 19.11a –
Jesus talking to
Pilate - “You could
have no power at all
against Me unless it
had been given you
from above.

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Consequences of
God as Ultimate
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Three Types of Conformity

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AUTHORITY

Lesson two

2. The Ultimate Source of Authority - God

AUTHORITY

Lesson two

- There must be an ultimate, final authority.
- There has to exist a person or place beyond which there can be no higher source.

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Bernard Ramm, in pattern for authority suggests that there are 2-sources of authority:

1. Superior position – “Imperial”
2. Truth – “Veracious”

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1. Superior position – “Imperial” (meaning) a position of absolute supremacy.
2. Truth – “Veracious” (meaning) truth so pure as to be the eternal source of truth.

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John 5.26 –

“For just as the Father
has life in Himself,
even so He gave to the
Son also to have life in
Himself”

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Revelation 1.8 –

““I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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Psalm 90.2 –

“Before the mountains
were born Or You gave
birth to the earth and
the world, Even from
everlasting to
everlasting, You are
God.”

AUTHORITY

Lesson three

AUTHORITY

Lesson four

AUTHORITY

Lesson five

AUTHORITY

Lesson six

AUTHORITY

Lesson seven

AUTHORITY

Lesson eight

AUTHORITY

Lesson ten