

What Is The Church?



RETHINKING THE CHURCH BIBLICALLY

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? - AUTHORITY



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In Paul's Epistles

"brethren" appears 134

"elders" appears 5 times

"overseers" appears 4 times

"pastors" appears 1 time

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? - AUTHORITY

**Far more is communicated in
God's Word about love and service
than authority and submission.**

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? - AUTHORITY

1. Subjection

Definition: A voluntary attitude of giving into, cooperating with, and yielding to the admonition or advice of another.

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1. Subjection

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. - Ephesians 5:20-21

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2. Authority

Definition: A possible and rightful action that can be carried out without hindrance.

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2. Authority

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. - Romans 13:1

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2. Authority

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

- Matthew 28:18

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3. Subjection vs Obedience

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3. Subjection vs Obedience

Subjection is an attitude.	Obedience is an action.
Subjection is absolute.	Obedience is relative.
Subjection is unconditional.	Obedience is conditional.
Subjection is internal.	Obedience is external.

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3. Subjection vs Obedience

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant. - Matthew 20:25-26

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

Official authority must be obeyed as long as what they declare does not violate the will of a higher authority.

Organic authority does not demand obedience to themselves rather they seek to persuade others to obey God.

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

Official authorities bear full responsibility when they lead those under them into wrong things.

Organic authority never voids the responsibility of others.

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

Official authority may be less mature or spiritual than those they have authority over.

Organic authority is directly linked to spiritual life.

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

Official authority possesses their authority for as long as they hold office.

Organic authority operates only when Christ is being expressed.

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4. Official Authority vs Organic Authority

Official authority almost always functions in a hierarchy.

Organic authority is never related to hierarchy.

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5. The Importance Of Love

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Anyone who does not love does not know God,
because God is love. - 1 John 4:8

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5. The Importance Of Love

The church ought to be demonstrating mutual subjection governed by mutual love.