



Values

Servanthood and Spiritual Authority

Servanthood and Spiritual Authority

1. Servanthood and authority in God

- Authority is central to
 who God is and what God does
 - His existence (e.g. Gen 1 v1)
 - His creation (e.g. Gen 1 v1,3)
 - His Kingdom (e.g. Isa 11 v1-9)
 - His Son (e.g. Mk 1v27; 2v1-12; 3v13-15; Jn 10v18)

i.e. Authority isn't some sort of 'optional extra' with God

Servanthood and Spiritual Authority

1. Servanthood and authority in God

- Authority is central to
who God is and what God does
- God's authority is not coercive

Contrast –

- *Philippians 2 v5-11*
 - v7 he made himself nothing; v8 'humbled himself
 - → exalted!
- *Isaiah 14 v12-15*
 - 'I will arise...'
 - → depths of the pit

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***Kingdom authority
is always married to
a servant heart.***

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2. Servanthood and authority in the church

- God wants us all to be servants
 - *Php 2 v5*
 - *John 13 v2-5*
 - *Matt 20 v28*
- God wants us all to have authority
 - *Prayer* (Isa 64 v4)
 - *Worship* (1 Pe 2 v9)
 - *Mutual challenge* (Rev 3 v19; 1 Thess 5 v14)
 - *Offering the word of life to others* (Matt 28 v18-20)
 - *Deliverance* (Mk 3 v15)

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2. Servanthood and authority in the church

NB To have authority we must be under authority!

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3. Servanthood and authority in leaders

- *Why do we need leaders?*
- *Because it's Biblical ! (e.g. Acts 14 v21-23; Titus 1 v5)*
- *Acts 20 v13-38*
 - *elder (v17) = presbuteros*
 - *overseer (v28) = episkopos*
 - *shepherd (v28) = poimēn*

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3. Servanthood and authority in leaders

- *Our response to leaders*
 - *Receive them!*
 - *Love them!*
 - *Pray for them!*
 - *Follow them!*
 - *Trust them!*

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Questions for further thought

1) Servanthood and authority in God

- *Are there areas of my life where I am not responding to God's authority? Where I am simply saying 'No'?*

2) Servanthood & authority in the church

- *In what sort of circumstances do I find it hard to be a servant, at work or in the church?*
- *In what areas do I find it easiest to exercise my God-given authority? And in what areas do I need to grow?*
- *Why is it hard sometimes to hold servanthood and authority in balance in our life?*

3) Servanthood and authority in leaders

- *How do I receive the leaders in my church? Do I love & trust them? Submit to them? Pray for them?*
- *Am I secure enough in who I am and in who they are to bring things to them?*
- *What are some of the best ways to show our support?*