



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Authority: An Introduction For Leaders (Romans 13:1)

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*All serving in leadership should reflect on the source and scope of their authority and resulting accountability. **Are you using all of the authority vested in your civil and spiritual position?***

### INTRODUCTION

Have you been tempted to ask a “why” question of God? Job, a wealthy businessman living 4000 years ago, received a rebuke from God for questioning personal suffering. God recounted His creation of the universe, setting the earth in place with its seasons (Job, Chapter 38). We are cautioned about questioning actions that are beyond our knowledge and the authority that God has ordained. Can you identify the sources of authority that you are accountable to?

### POSITIONAL AUTHORITY – GOVERNMENT

*Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except by God, and those that exist are put in place by God.<sup>1</sup>*

The same Greek term for “being subject to” is used in 1Peter 2:13 where Peter mentions what a king has authority to do to those who do not obey. America is a democratic republic. Elected leaders serve by consent of the governed. Our leaders are accountable to the people and subject to recall. The people are held accountable by a variety of criminal, civil, and regulatory laws/rules. Consider the instances where you have had to hold others accountable while also submitting to the authority in your own service!

### EARNING GREATER AUTHORITY

*Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”<sup>2</sup>*

Jesus came to earth as God in the flesh to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and wash the feet of those on his leadership team. These twelve soon were overwhelmed by the scope of their service. They empowered their own followers to elect seven men of wisdom, full of the Holy Spirit. These were given the **authority** to run the day-to-day business, including waiting tables (Acts 6:1-6). Consider how you serve those whom God has entrusted to your care; those three million, sixty thousand, thirty thousand, or a precious few. How can you better serve each and enable these to be more productive in the areas in which you are accountable?

### THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY

*Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”<sup>3</sup>*

The scope of this authority is highlighted in Hebrews 1:1-14. This includes principalities and powers, those seen and unseen, in the heavens and on earth. We are given a glimpse of the spiritual realm in the Book of Job. Satan, leader of the evil spirits, came before God with an accusation. Job worshiped God only because he was greatly blessed. God gave Satan permission to test Job. The first attack was through loss of his worldly possessions. Satan’s second attack afflicted Job’s health. Job trusted God through the tests, proving to Satan and the reader that faith endures and God is Sovereign. Job was blessed with a productive life on earth and a secure place in eternity. How have you been tested and proven through the trials of this life?

### A PRAYER

Almighty God, You sent Your Son as my leadership model. Jesus honored Your Sovereign authority, yet submitted to the authority of the petty rulers on earth. He kept on mission, yet paused to minister to those around Him. When tempted, Jesus rebuked Satan by quoting Your Word and binding the evil forces that threatened the work. Help me to be faithful in the authority given me in Your service here. I pray in the Name of Jesus, Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Lexham English Bible (Logos Bible Software) 2011.

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 2011.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (Crossway Bibles) 2001.