



Teacher: John Burton

Teaching Title: Metron: Spiritual Authority

- I. Universal Authority
 - a. I've taught on spiritual authority that all believers have been granted.
 - i. This message is more specifically about what specific authority individual people have.
 - ii. Universal authority is different than positional authority.
 - iii. Let's briefly look at universal authority.
 - b. Spiritual authority is the power and privilege given to believers by God to exercise influence in the spiritual realm. It's how we govern.
 - i. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **Colossians 1:11-13**
 - ii. Authority is included in the inheritance.
 - iii. We have been delivered from darkness through the cross and are called to invade the darkness as warriors!
 - iv. God doesn't fight the devil for us—we are today's authorized warriors!
 1. God won't put on your armor for you.
 2. You must put it on and use your weapons.
 - v. Paul prayed: ...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **Ephesians 1:18-19**
 - vi. ...that he worked 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 above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **Ephesians 1:20-22**
 1. We are seated in heavenly places—far above all rule and authority and power and dominion—far above the prince and the power of the air!
 - c. Healing the sick requires authority.
 - i. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons... **Matthew 10:8**
 - ii. Notice Peter HAD something to give—authority.
 1. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" **Acts 3:6**
 - d. Casting out demons requires authority.

- i. And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **Luke 9:1-2**
- e. Changing your life circumstances requires authority.
 - i. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **Matthew 16:19**
 1. Keys=authority
 - ii. Definition of Authority: the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience; a person or organization having power or control in a particular, typically political or administrative, sphere.
- f. Authority requires brokenness.
 - i. "Unless we are completely broken by the Lord we are not qualified to be God's delegated authority. God calls us to *represent* His authority, not to *substitute* His authority." ~Watchman Nee
- g. Authority requires faith.
- h. Faith requires hearing. This is why preaching and teaching have such supernatural power attached to them.
 - i. "For one to be in authority does not depend on his having ideas or thoughts; rather it does hinge on knowing the will of God." ~Watchman Nee
- i. Authority is administered verbally.
 - i. We see Jesus speaking and creation responding.
 1. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **Genesis 1:3**
 - a. Said (*amar*): To command via speech. Behind the divine speaking is divine authority and power.
 2. "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." (John 5:8)
 3. That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." **Matthew 8:16-17**
 4. And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" **Luke 4:36**
 - a. Power (*dunamis*): Miraculous force, violence
 5. When we use words that are contrary to truth, that power is extreme.
 6. There's power of life and death in the tongue.
 7. Gossip is an extremely powerful counterfeit Rhema word that commands and manipulates via a spirit of witchcraft.
- j. Prayer is extremely powerful and necessary for those functioning in their authority.
 - i. When we pray, we legislate.
 - ii. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with

their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." **Mark 16:17-18**

1. We have been given authority to trample on serpents, but we must believe.
 2. Authority plus faith equals power.
- II. Positional Authority: Metron
- a. Authority requires we are under authority.
 - i. Now we are about to start talking about positional authority.
 - ii. Lyn Packer: Your metron is determined by the sphere of authority that God has assigned to you in that call, your relational ability, your character, humility, teachability and more. A metron may grow as you grow in the use of the gift and in character, or it may not.
 1. Functioning beyond your current sphere of authority is never wise and will always cause problems.
 2. If people get this mixed up they may end up wondering why their gift or calling isn't being recognised as they think it should be.
 - iii. 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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **Romans 13:1-2**
 1. Rebellion to authority is an automatic disqualifier for us.
 2. "To overthrow God's authority is to overthrow God." ~Watchman Nee
 3. "People will perhaps argue, "What if the authority is wrong?" The answer is, if God dares to entrust His authority to men, then we can dare to obey. Whether the one in authority is right or wrong does not concern us, since he has to be responsible directly to God. The obedient needs only to obey; the Lord will not hold us responsible for any mistaken obedience, rather will He hold the delegated authority responsible for his erroneous act. Insubordination, however, is rebellion, and for this the one under authority must answer to God." ~Watchman Nee
 - b. The concept of positional authority is triggering for a lot of people who have been hurt or disappointed by leadership.
 - i. I'd strongly encourage you to get my message from last week on church hurt.
 - ii. "We cannot separate our submission to God's inherent authority from our submission to His delegated authority. All authority originates from Him! When we oppose God's delegated authority, we oppose God Himself." ~John Bevere, Under Cover
 - iii. Disobedience to God's authority robs us of his freedom and protection. ~John Bevere
 - c. A major weak link in the understanding of the church for many Believers today has to do with rank. Hierarchy.

- i. Frustration with leadership and church in general has resulted in many abandoning the idea that some people outrank others both spiritually and functionally.
- ii. What is lost on many is the fact that hierarchy isn't definitive of worth.
 1. It defines both function and authority. What we are authorized to do and not do.
 2. A lady asked what she should do if she has a prophetic word during my sermon.
 - a. Save it.
 - b. She believed she should interrupt and share it.
 - c. I'm sure she was thinking of Ephesians 14.
 - d. "What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation..." (1 Corinthians 14:26, ESV)
 - e. Many are embracing a leaderless, organic, democratic model of church that's simply not scriptural.
 - f. We'll break down Ephesians 14 in a bit.
- d. At Revival X we are HUGE into equipping, releasing, empowering and seeing people step into their callings, ministries and authority.
 - i. Overbearing control isn't allowed here.
 - ii. However, bold, healthy, life-giving advance in the authority God has given us is.
 - iii. Different people have different authority.
 1. Their metron is specific to them.
 2. It depends on their calling, their possible office, their maturity, their submission, their obedience, passing trials, blessing those who hurt, etc.
 3. Everyone has spiritual boundaries that we must function within.
 - a. Different people have different boundaries, different authority and different spheres of responsibility.
 - iv. It's simply impossible to read Scripture and arrive at any other conclusion than hierarchy is foundational in the construct of the church.
- e. Offices
 - i. The city church can only be understood in the context of metron.
 1. *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."* (1 Corinthians 12:27–31, ESV)
 - a. **First ... second ... third ... then** seems to be a ranking of importance or benefit to the church, with apostles being

primary and then prophecy and teaching also contributing greatly to building others up. ~ESV Study Bible

- b. **first apostles**—above even the *prophets*. Under “teachers” are included “evangelists and pastors. ~JFB Commentary
- c. First, in the Greek, is *Proton*: chief, first in importance, leader
- d. Interestingly, apostles must always be strong leaders.
 - i. Prophets, not so much.
 - ii. Evangelists, teachers, pastors, less so.
 - iii. This is why pastor led churches must give way to apostle led churches.
 - iv. The city church will look much different than what we see today.
 - v. I know when I’m in the company of an apostle.
 - vi. Ted Haggard
 - 1. National Day of Prayer BIGGEST events in the nation...until he passed the baton.
 - 2. I felt void in apostolic when he fell.

f. Metron

- i. At its most basic, metron means “measure.”
 - 1. It’s the measure of authority, position, influence that God has given us.
 - 2. It’s different for everyone.
- ii. Jonas Clark: A true apostolic ministry paradigm is one that gathers, teaches, equips, assigns, targets, builds, shapes, raises disciples, and deploys teams. Today, thousands of churches have no apostolic structure in place to move people beyond a teaching- or pastoring-only structure into apostolic ministry. Spiritual Jurisdiction - the right, power, or authority to exercise dominion.
 - 1. When an apostle builds a local church it becomes a place of spiritual jurisdiction and influence with the power and authority of God to rule and reign in the territory. Apostolic believers understand the responsibility to reach that territory and possess a different orientation of ministry because they fully discern the overall scope of the local church.
 - 2. Assigned places of spiritual jurisdiction are called “metrons,” a Greek word for measure. The understanding of metrons is vital to every believer because it is the believers who are “sent” out (from the Greek words apo and stello) from the local church to occupy these territories. The apostolic dimension of a local governing church activates and empowers every believer as a sent-one to invade and occupy God-given metrons.
 - 3. “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring (judging) themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure (metron) of the rule (kanon)

which God hath distributed to us, a measure (metron) to reach even unto you” (2 Corinthians 10:12-13).

- iii. Naija: When God gives you a calling, authority, or a position it's important to know where your METRON is. A metron is a sphere of influence and a position of authority/ power. It's super important to know what God has called you to. For me, as an apostle in business it's even more important to know what he's calling me to speak about publicly and what he is calling me to just intercede and pray about. Just because people are begging you to tell them how you feel or what your opinion is doesn't mean you should speak on it. People make the mistake that if God gives them any kind of authority they may think they're supposed to talk about everything. That's a major misunderstanding. It's not about staying in your lane it's knowing what you're called to. Some people give themselves useless casualties and troubles by getting themselves all caught up in things they have an opinion on. Know what Holy Spirit is calling you to speak publicly on social media about. There's an ease, help, authority and more important protection to where you are called. And..... this is why it's so important to have an intimate relationship with God and not just speaking off the top of our head or knowing what a bible verse says.
- iv. Lyn Packer: The apostle Paul understood that he was not an apostle to all people. He had a sphere of influence, which included the Corinthian believers.
 1. *“We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you.”* - 2 Corinthians 10:13
 2. If you are called to be a prophet you need to understand that you will not be a prophet to everyone everywhere, but you will be a prophet to someone, some group, somewhere. You cannot assume that your call to be a prophet automatically gives you right to speak into anyone's life anywhere.
 3. Metron means ‘a determined extent, portion measured off, measure or limit’ or, in other words, a sphere of authority, anointing and influence. Operating within that will bring a release of the power assigned to that sphere of authority and a flow and ease in ministry, but operating outside it will cause problems.
 - a. Me: Metron reveals our authority and also our limits.
 4. Knowing your current metron:
 - a. **What has God called you to, what He has said to you personally?**
 - b. **What do those in leadership, and those around you, recognize as your gift and current level of authority in it?**
 - i. A good leader will only set restrictions to keep you safe in your ministry, and to help you grow, never to hold you down or back. As they see your faithfulness,

teachability and anointing level grow those restrictions will change and you'll be given more freedom to minister.

- c. What is your assignment?
 - d. Where have you had patterns of success?
 - e. Where do you have faith?
- g. Covering
- i. A structure in the church, a government, is critical.
 - 1. Intercessors can get hit if they aren't covered by apostles and prophets.
 - ii. Accountability, submission and honor of authority and the covering of authority ensure the church is healthy, safe and strong.
 - iii. This principle is true in our everyday life just as it is in the church.
 - 1. *"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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,"* (Romans 13:1–3, ESV)
 - 2. *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."* (Hebrews 13:17, ESV)
 - a. Those who don't believe in biblical authority, in leadership, are usually silent when they hear these verses, or they are triggered.
 - b. Here are some more.
 - c. Remember, our authority increases as we honor our authorities.
 - d. And, authorities who demand honor will lose their authority.
 - e. *"For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed."* (2 Corinthians 10:8, ESV)
 - 3. *"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people."* (Titus 3:1–2, ESV)
 - 4. *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."* (1 Timothy 5:17, ESV)

5. *“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13, ESV)
6. *“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”* (1 Peter 2:13–17, ESV)

III. Freedom and order in the church

a. The Holy Spirit

i. *We need a church on fire today more than ever.*

1. *The lost are being introduced into lukewarm, natural, Ichabod religion instead of a supernatural shaking that can only come from the great I Am.*
2. *They are convinced they are saved as they are assimilated into a community of like-minded quasi-spiritual people who would love to see God manifest in their natural realm—yet have no interest in manifesting in the spiritual realm where the Holy Spirit broods.*

ii. The gifts of the Spirit are critical!

1. *Those who dismiss, reject, minimize or tone down the gifts and activity of the Holy Spirit due to discomfort or theological position are at great risk of rejecting God himself—and encouraging others to do the same.*
2. *Yes, the baptism in the Holy Spirit which results in a remarkable life of power, praying in unknown tongues, experiencing the supernatural realm and living a prophetic life is critical, not simply optional, for all.*
3. *“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.”* (1 Corinthians 14:1, ESV)
4. *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.”* (1 Corinthians 12:1, ESV)

iii. Gifts (1 Cor 12):

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry
3. Teaching
4. Encouragement
5. Giving
6. Leadership

7. Mercy
 8. Word of wisdom
 9. Word of knowledge
 10. Faith
 11. Healing
 12. Miracles
 13. Discerning of spirits
 14. Different kinds of tongues
 15. Interpretation of tongues
 16. Administration
 17. Five-fold ministry
 - a. Apostle
 - b. Prophet
 - c. Evangelist
 - d. Pastor
 - e. Teacher
- iv. Some gifts are given at birth, some as the Holy Spirit determines.
- b. While the gifts must operate, this is not an invitation to chaos.
- i. *“So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.”* (1 Corinthians 14:39–40, ESV)
 - ii. This is how Paul’s instruction about freedom and order in the church concludes.
 1. We’ll see how he brings correction and then sums it all up by clearly declaring that prophecy and tongues are critical, yet biblical order must be followed.
- c. There’s a movement that promotes organic, leaderless church gatherings.
- i. It’s not a church.
 - ii. Fox News: *An omni-channel approach to church would allow people to fully connect and engage with a church without the need to step inside a physical environment every week. They could attend one Sunday, listen to the message on podcast the following week, watch a live online stream the Sunday after, and catch the message on-demand in a church app the week after that.* ~Dave Adamson
 1. That sounds freeing, but it’s not the church. It is not the Ekklesia.
 2. What is being proposed simply cannot be defined biblically as the church.
 - a. Technology, video and alternate methods of worshiping, listening to teachings and even connecting with other Christians are all benefits for Believers.

- b. Limitless sermons are available to all of us.
 - c. In fact, nobody has an excuse in this digital age for lacking in spiritual depth, knowledge and intimacy with Jesus.
 - d. The opportunities for spiritual growth are endless.
 - e. This is good, but this is not church.
- iii. Ekklesia: a gathering under apostolic leadership
- iv. In the Fox News interview, Dave Adamson misunderstands the purpose of the church gathering quite remarkably.
- 1. It's not simply to connect, worship and learn.
 - a. If that were the case, the online options would absolutely be better in many ways than connecting physically in a local church.
 - b. It's easy to find the best of the best worship experience, the deepest and most impacting teaching and the experience we specifically desire somewhere online.
 - c. Those experiences will most always outperform what the local church can offer.
 - 2. Except for at least one, important thing—the governmental gathering. The Ekklesia.
 - a. The church isn't primarily there to satisfy our desires for worship, teaching and connections.
 - b. It's been ordained by God as a governmental force in the region.
 - 3. Ekklesia is actually a secular term referring to the gathering together of the people in the region by governmental authorities for the purpose of relaying information and calling people to action.
 - a. So, for the Ekklesia to function, there must be local leadership, a regular gathering under that leadership and a responsiveness to what God is calling people unto.
 - b. Add to that the key purpose of the church, corporate intercession, and you realize it's not possible to have church or to be the church in any legitimate way online.
- d. Many who promote an organic, leaderless gathering use 1 Corinthians 14 as their rallying cry:
- i. "What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation..." (1 Corinthians 14:26, ESV)
 - 1. This is the famous verse many disgruntled people use when they share their frustrations about the church.
 - 2. They want to minister in the service and they don't like just sitting there and listening to one person teach.

3. They attempt to spiritualize their irritation.
- ii. This argument is often a manifestation of a spirit of rejection.
 1. Their ministry has not been given a place and they took offense.
 2. As one who has led churches for years I don't apologize for disallowing certain people from ministering in the service.
 3. My role is to protect the [sheep](#).
 4. If someone desires to minister, but it's from a wounded heart, it can do great damage.
 - a. *Give double honor to spiritual leaders[a] who handle their duties well. This is especially true if they work hard at teaching God's word. 1 Tim 5:17*
 - b. This means it's possible to not handle duties well.
 - c. We cannot allow those people to be free to "minister" however they please.
 5. 1 Corinthians 14:26 is a critique, a correction, not an affirmation.
- iii. No, everyone should not have a lesson, a hymn, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation.
 1. It doesn't take much study to see the problem with this.
 2. This verse is smack in the middle of a lengthy passage about restrictions and prohibitions in church services.
 - a. It's not the mantra of freedom or body ministry that many would presume it is.
- iv. The verse starts by saying, "What then, brothers?"
 1. Another way we could say it is, "Say what, brothers?"
 2. There's some shock that they are doing what is not appropriate.
 3. "Say what? Are you really allowing everyone to have a tongue? Everyone is teaching? That's not allowed according to Scripture."
- v. In fact the inappropriate flow of the gathering is addressed specifically if you keep reading.
 1. "...If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God." (1 Corinthians 14:26–28, ESV)
 2. Verse 26 reveals that everyone had a tongue, but verse 27 reveals that only two or three should have a tongue...and then, only if there's someone to interpret.
 - a. Otherwise, the instruction is to keep silent.
 - b. Don't give a message in tongues.

- vi. Verse 26 highlights everyone having a revelation, but verse 27 allows only two or three.
- vii. Then, verse 33 brings it all together:
 - 1. “For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...” (1 Corinthians 14:33, ESV)
- viii. Additionally, the Bible makes it clear that not all are to teach. Everyone bringing a lesson as addressed in 1 Cor 14:26 is inappropriate.
 - 1. “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.” (James 3:1, ESV)
- e. When operating biblically, house churches can be a healthy segment of the city church.
 - i. However, it's easy to forsake some of the key purposes of church gatherings.
 - ii. The church isn't supposed to be perpetual “family gatherings” where we focus mainly on relationships.
 - iii. Small groups can offer opportunities to connect relationally, but that is not the foundation nor the primary goal of the greater city church.
- f. The Ekklesia is not a local body. It's the greater church in the city.
 - i. It's a gathering under apostolic leadership.
 - ii. It's a governmental organization with a military level mission to accomplish.
 - iii. Simple prayer, worship and “Holy Spirit” small group gatherings are great, but nothing more than a small part of the greater picture.
- g. Five-fold leadership is key in the city church. Not everybody has been selected to lead in this fashion.
 - i. In fact, very few are.
 - ii. It's imperative that we understand rank, order, governmental roles and regional leadership if we hope to see the Kingdom advance.
- h. When we truly understand metron, we can see that people are at various levels of growth and maturity and have different spheres of responsibility.
 - i. Different limits.
 - ii. Different permissions.
- i. Not everyone is qualified spiritually to participate the way they want.
 - i. Some are spiritual infants.
 - ii. Some refuse to grow.
 - iii. Some are self-centered.
 - iv. Some are rebellious.
 - v. Story of lady dancing and flagging at Revolution Church.
- j. Arguments
 - i. I know many who truly get triggered at this teaching.
 - 1. Who am I to “allow” others to participate or not?

2. It's God's church, not man's.
3. Absolutely anyone can participate as "the Holy Spirit" desires.
 - a. The presumption that any and all hear the Holy Spirit correctly, and that all have been given instructions for the direction of the church or the service.
 - b. Not so.
 - c. The immature, undisciplined, prayerless, etc. aren't ready.
 - d. God gives primary instructions to apostolic leaders.
 - e. It's not a democracy.
- ii. Body ministry is the ultimate goal.
 1. Not so.
 2. Everyone ministering to everyone isn't the prime focus.
 3. In the right setting, body ministry is amazing.
 4. In the wrong setting it's a distraction.
- iii. There is no hierarchy in the Kingdom of God. Jesus alone is the head.
 1. It would be a nightmare if this was true.
 2. As we've seen, cover to cover in Scripture God establishes human authority.
- iv. The Holy Spirit is the only leader not subject to the deception of pride.
 1. So, they eliminate all human leadership?
 2. This is the bottom line for those who are embracing a leaderless church.
 3. They don't want to be disappointed again.
 4. Those who don't endorse biblical leadership, and do subjectively as the Holy Spirit leads, are equally susceptible to pride as a leader is. Refusal to submit to authority can in fact be an indication of pride.
- v. The purpose of the church isn't mostly focused on people functioning in their gifts...it's to fulfill the mission.
 1. That means some will be more involved in church building and others outside.
 2. It's not necessary for everyone to do as they feel led to do in a church service.