

Message title: Reasonable Authority

Big Idea: Realizing Jesus' rightful authority changes everything.

5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, **23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

The Father has given Jesus authority for all judgment & therefore everyone should honor the authority of the Son if they honor the authority of the Father.

1. Honor the Father & the Son as one.

You can't have a real & right relationship w/God outside of a real & right relationship with Jesus.

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Once you know & believe someone's authority; because it is their identity their authority doesn't change.

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. **26** For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **27** and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice **29** and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

What is good? To believe & follow Christ whom the Father sent.

What is evil? To reject & rebel against Christ whom the Father sent

2. Trusting the Son is good.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

3. Jesus' authority is reasonable.

30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. **31** "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. **32** There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

I. Jesus' selfless submission to the Father was a witness.

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. **34** Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. **35** He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

II. John's testimony was a witness.

36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

III. His works were His witness.

Matthew 11:5 *The* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

IV. The Father was His witness.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. **39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40** But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

V. The Scripture was His witness.

Because they made the Scriptures about themselves, they missed the point of Scripture which was to point them to Christ.

41 “I do not receive honor from men. **42** But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. **44** How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. **47** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

VI. Moses was His witness.

For LIFE Groups:

Summary: Jesus is changing all kinds of things for the Jews. They didn't just want answers; they had animosity. In this passage Jesus unpacks His authority and six powerful witnesses to His authority that should be convincing for them and for us as well.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. Have you ever questioned someone's authority to make changes in your life (a boss, parent, coach, etc.)? What helped you accept or reject their authority? How could this relate to Jesus?
3. What's the difference between "blind faith" and "reasonable faith"?
4. How could the idea in John 5:23 "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" affect interfaith conversations?
5. Which of the six witnesses is most compelling to you? (Submission to the Father, John the Baptist, His works, the Father's voice, Scripture, Moses)
6. How can we study Scripture in a way that points us to Christ rather than points us to ourselves or just makes us feel better?