

This morning I'll attempt to tackle a subject that should be near and dear to the heart of every believer in Christ Jesus. By its nature, this subject requires our involvement, can be both used and abused, and is needed as much now as ever. I'm talking about "The Authority of the Believer." Without a clear understanding of your authority in Christ Jesus, you will not fully operate in the dominion mandate of the Kingdom of God. That mandate was granted by God to all mankind before the first man, Adam, was even created.

In **Gen. 1:26-28 NKJV** Scripture reads like this, "Then God said, *"Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness; let them **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* 27. *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* 28. *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves (about) on the earth."*

**Pastor & Editor Jack Heyford, SFLBKD, "Man's Delegated "Dominion,"** "In creating man, the Sovereign of the universe makes a choice to delegate to man "dominion...on the earth" (v. 28). Man's power and authority for exercising this rule originate in God's intent to make man in His own image and likeness. Man's ability to sustain his role as delegated ruler of Earth will rest in his continued obedience to God's rule as King of all. His power to reign in life will extend only as far as his faithfulness to obey God's law." **Dominion** (Webst)= supreme authority.

### **Mark 16:14-20 What Authority Is!**

The Bible teaches us, beginning with Genesis chapter 1, that, as the Creator of all things, God has "the power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior, i.e. a President" (Webst. '**authority**'). In the N.T. era, which began with the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, spiritual authority has similarly been delegated on the basis of a certain qualification – **believe!** In the exhaustive book, Renewal Theology, it says this about "**Reigning Forever,**" "1. From the beginning man was made by God to rule. The first recorded words of God to newly created man were these: *"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth"* (**Gen. 1:28 NASB**). The psalmist echoes these words, saying, *"Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands' Thou hast put all things under his feet"* (**8:6 NASB**). The writer of **Hebrews**, after quoting from Psalm 8, declares, *"Now in putting everything in subjection to him [man], he left nothing outside his control"* (**Heb. 2:8**).

2. "Man does not fully exercise this rule. The words in **Heb. 2:8** continue, *"As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him."* The point, then, is that this

dominion, or rule, by man is not complete – indeed, it is far from complete because of the inroads of sin, death, and the power of Satan.

3. “The focus shifts to Jesus: *“But we see Jesus,”* who was victorious over all that prevents man’s rule, *“crowned with glory and honor”* (v. 9). So Jesus, by His victory on the cross and His elevation to heaven, now rules over all principalities and powers.

4. “Those who belong to Christ also rule, or reign, now because of Him. Paul writes [in **Rom. 5:17**], *“If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one Man Jesus Christ.”* We reign in life even now. As Paul later adds [**Rom. 8:37**], *“We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us,”* and this includes life, death, principalities, things present, things to come [which cannot separate us from God’s love]: there is no limit. In the Book of Revelation [**1:5-6**], John writes, *“To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.”*

### **What Do We Do With It?**

As a kingdom of priests to our God, we use the authority of the believer to rule, or take dominion, for God’s glory by enforcing Christ’s victory over Satan throughout the Earth. This is what Jesus was teaching His disciples in **Matt. 16:17-**

**19 TPT**, *“Jesus replied, “You are favored and privileged Simeon, son of Jonah! For you didn’t discover this on your own, but my Father in heaven has supernaturally revealed it to you. 18. I give you the name Peter, a stone. And this truth of who I am will be the bedrock foundation on which I will build my church (\*Ecclesia) – my legislative assembly, and the power of death (or, the gates of hell) will not be able to overpower it! 19. I will give you the keys [symbols of authority & ruling power] of heaven’s kingdom realm to forbid on earth that which is forbidden in heaven, and to release on earth that which is released in heaven.”*

**\*TPT note (a)** “The Gk word for “church” is *ekklesia* and means “legislative assembly” or “selected ones.” This is not a religious term at all, but a political and governmental term that is used many times in classical Greek for a group of people who have been summoned and gathered together to govern the affairs of a city. For Jesus to use this term means He is giving the keys of governmental authority in His Kingdom to the church.”

### **So what does this “called out, legislative body” do with this Kingdom authority?**

**V. 19. We bind and loose, we forbid and permit** on earth what has already been bound & forbidden in Heaven & what has already been loosed and permitted in Heaven.