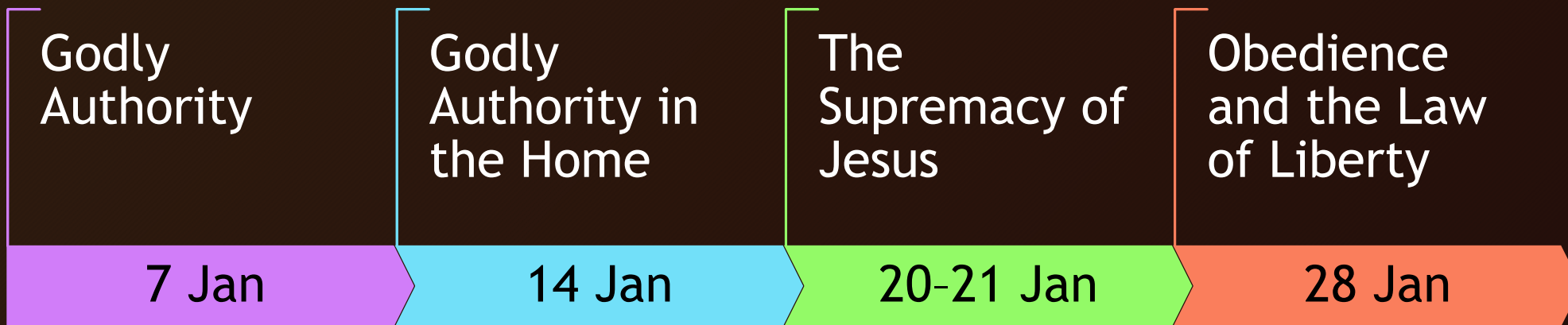


Upcoming sermons



Sat - 3 sessions at SBC
Sun - Worship at GBC

Godly Authority

Godly Authority Message

Authority provides order in God's creation and He intends it for our good

Feminists shun authority

We can see how feminists shun “the notion of hierarchy...if all forms of human authority are understood in top-down, military-style command-and-obey terms. But, as we’ve seen, this stereotype is unfortunately misleading, unduly simplistic and biblically unwarranted”

Andreas and Margaret Köstenberger, *God’s Design for Man and Woman*, pp. 187-8

Anti-authority permeates our culture

“The Oxford Dictionaries designated the word “post-truth” as the word of the year for 2016. Post-truth accepts the fact that a private disposition can legitimately trump an objective fact.”

David Wells, *9Marks.org*, “*Thinking Biblically about Authority: An Interview with David Wells*”

Anti-authority permeates our culture

“In this cultural environment, then, all authority withers. First, any appeal to any kind of authority is unacceptable because there is nothing there to validate that appeal. Second, it therefore follows that those who appeal to an authority must be doing so out of self-serving motives. Their appeal is simply a way to manipulate others and serve their own private agendas”


David Wells, *9Marks.org*, “*Thinking Biblically about Authority: An Interview with David Wells*”

Countering cultural bias

“The solution to bad authority is not no authority but good authority”

Jonathan Leeman, *Authority*,
ebook, ch. 3

“Authority”



Authority is a stewardship for carrying out the assigned responsibilities of an office

Responsibilities can include leading, making decisions, making or enforcing laws or rules, protecting, punishing, disciplining, caring for, etc.

Authority is an office or stewardship

Jonathan Leeman writes, “the idea of an office communicates the fact that authority is not intrinsic to a person but comes from a granting agent; one’s authority serves a particular purpose or scope; it carries certain responsibilities and a code of ethics; it is a stewardship possessing a limited jurisdiction and duration; it is given to specific individuals and not to everyone.”

Authority, ebook, ch. 1

Authority is delegated by God

Jesus said, “*All authority has been given to Me*” (Mt 28:18; Jn 17:2)

Paul said, “*there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God*” (Rom 13:1; 1 Pet 2:13-15)

Elders are given authority by Christ (Titus 2:15; Heb 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12; 1 Pet 5:2; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Thess 5:12)

Human authority is accountable to God

The elders who lead you “*will give an account*” to God
(Heb 13:17)

Some purposes of Godly Authority

**Provides
order in
creation**

**Benefits
those under
authority**

**Helps those
in authority
to grow**

“Authority is not a privilege to be exploited to build up my ego. Authority is a responsibility to be borne for the benefit of others without regard for oneself. This alone is the Christian view.”

Ray Ortlund in *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, p. 112

**Purpose: Godly
authority
benefits those
under authority**

Godly authority benefits those under it

Apostles given authority “for building you up” (2 Cor 10:8; 13:10)

Elders given authority for care of the flock (1 Pet 5:2; Heb 13:17; Eph 4:12)

Elders given authority for an example to the flock (1 Pet 5:3)

Godly authority focuses on responsibility (Acts 20:28-29; 1 Pet 5:2; Heb 13:17; Rom 13:14; 1 Pet 2:14)

Godly authority practices compassionate care (1 Thess 2:6-7)

Godly authority is other-centered (1 Pet 5:3)

Character of godly authority

Godly authority is other-centered

“Godly authority, as set down in Scripture and as I’ve witnessed it, is seldom an advantage to those who possess it. It involves leading and making decisions, to be sure. Jesus led. But what the godly leader feels day to day are not all the advantages, but the burdens of responsibility, of culpability, of even bearing another’s guilt. It’s profoundly costly, usually involving the sacrifice of everything. It requires the end of personal desires.”

Jonathan Leeman, “Complementarianism: A Moment of Reckoning”, 9Marks.org

Godly authority is other-centered

“Meanwhile, those “under” that authority often possess most of the advantages. They’re provided protection and opportunity, strength and freedom. Isn’t all this precisely what we see in Jesus’ use of authority?”

Jonathan Leeman, “Complementarianism: A Moment of Reckoning”, 9Marks.org