



SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY SERIES

Part Three: "Authority and Abuse in the Church"

Pastor David Cannistraci ♦ April 27, 2008

"Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the LORD his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know [God's] true greatness..." Micah 5:4 (CEV)

► **People are _____ and the world is _____ when authority is right in the church.**

SHEPHERD - SHEEP RELATIONSHIPS

"He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."
2 Samuel 23:3 (NKJV)

"I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, the Lord have spoken!" Jeremiah 23:4 (NLT)

1. Leaders who _____.

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."
1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV)

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves..." 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (KJV)

2. Followers who _____.

"Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow..." Heb. 13:17 (NLT)

Authority and Abuse (Cont'd)

"...Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard...and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other." 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NLT)

BEING HEALED OF AUTHORITY _____

- _____ **your story to someone mature.**
- **Take _____ to heal.**
- _____ **God to redeem your past.**

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and...ridiculed the Jews..."Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble – burned as they are?" ...So we rebuilt the wall...for the people worked with all their heart."
Nehemiah 4:1-2, 6 (NIV)

FATHER GOD, Thank you for the place I have in Christ and in the church. I want to fulfill your call to serve and lead in love. Forgive me when I overstep or fall short of my place. May I be perfectly positioned in and healed by your authority in the church. In Christ's Name, AMEN

RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK'S SMALL GROUPS

Icebreaker: Share a time when you wandered off somehow and God used a leader to bring you back into safety.

Scripture Focus: Let each member share a verse from this teaching-- one that spoke to them personally. What does it mean to them?

Discussion Focus: How can we be better followers and leaders in the Body of Christ?

Prayer Focus: Pray for those with authority wounds to be healed.

REMEMBER to give an offering for the needy in your group this week, for God has promised us a rich reward (Det. 15:11, Psalm 41:1)