

# Jesus Said So, Authority 101

The Importance of doing all Things in the Name of Jesus  
Colossians 3:17

Authority is a very interesting concept. It has never been a particularly popular topic. After all, we do like to do what we like to do. Our “Me Generation” focus only makes acceptance more difficult for authority. Authority, however, with all the aversion to its self-altering nature, is not given a fair hearing. What is it, really? Let us have a look. It may not be what you think!

## Minimalist Malaise

- Religion, interestingly enough, can be the greatest enemy to a complete understanding of God’s authority (Matt. 5:20-48)
- Bottom lines, formulas, and minimum requirements distort God’s will, creating a misplaced, hollow, cold set of priorities (Matt. 23:23-24)

## Serious Business

- When God reveals His will, we are given no viable option but to obey as given (Matt. 5:17-19)
- The New Covenant Era has not brought such serious attention to a close (Heb. 2:1-4)
- This loyalty, however, must encompass the whole council of God (cf. Ps. 119:160)

## R-E-S-P-E-C-T

- What we do with a person’s word is what we do with the person (Jn. 14:15, 23)
- Talk is cheap, obedience is not (Matt. 7:21-23; I Jn. 3:18)
- Knowledge of the nature of Jesus is necessary for His authority to be truly served (cf. Matt. 7:23)

## The “Name” of Jesus

- Biblically, in such contexts as Colossians 3:17, “name” means all the person represents (cf. I Cor. 2:16)
- Thus, authority ultimately centers on our response to the nature of Jesus (Phil. 2:5; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 3:16-17; 4:15; Gal. 2:20)
- Christ-likeness is the ultimate submission to Jesus
- Such respect for authority mirrors the respect of Jesus for the Father (Jn. 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10)

We must submit to all conditions for salvation, accept all revealed structure for the church, and bow to all God’s worship directives, but there is much more. We are to submit our will to the mind of the Christ in every respect. It is not our will but His will that must be done (cf. Matt. 26:36-46). The irony of this is that such an all-encompassing submission is not loss, but gain (Matt. 10:39).