

Church Authority

1. The S_____ of Church Authority

Colossians 1:18

2. The S_____ of Church Authority

Romans 13:1-6

Robert Reymond (NSTCF, 865) “The nature of the church’s authority is exclusively spiritual and moral, over against civil and legislative authority of the state—the latter often manifesting itself in physically coercive ways against human violence and public disorder... The church has no police force or battalions of soldiers. The medieval church was dead wrong when it endorsed, under Innocent IV’s bull, the use of torture to break the will of heretics and to extort recantations from them, and penalize the unrepentant with confiscation of goods, imprisonment, and their surrender to the ‘secular arm,’ which meant death at the stake... The church was wrong when in the eleventh through thirteenth centuries it launched Crusades to recover the Holy Land from Islam... And the theonomic reconstructionists of our day are just as wrong when they call upon the state to execute false prophets, witches, adulterers, and homosexuals.”

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

John Murray (CW, 255) “To put the matter bluntly, the church is not to engage in politics. Its members must do so, but only in their capacity as citizens of the state, not as members of the church. The church is not to create or foster political parties or blocs. The proclamation of the church may indeed induce the members of the church and others to affiliate themselves, in their capacity as citizens, with one party rather than another or, perhaps, to form a political party for the promotion of good politics.

3. The Manifestations of Authority

a. P_____ the Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

John 20:23

a. A_____ of Members and R_____ (baptism and communion implied)

Matthew 18:15-20

Matthew 28:18-20

Reasons For Church Discipline:

a. R_____

b. To G_____ God by Obeying Christ—Mt 18

c. To Maintain H_____ in the Body of Christ—

1 Co 5:6-7

d. To R_____ Sin in Others—

1 Timothy 5:20

Acts 5:11

b. Guardians of the T_____

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Acts 15:1-21

Titus 1:9