

- How the Lord Jesus Christ's authority works today.
1. **Authority exercised: Christ Makes His Churches of those who are Called to faith in by His Word preached.** Eph. 2:20.
 - a. Only through His Word and Spirit is there life and liberty for sin-cursed and sinful humans.
 - b. Salvation & holiness come to them by His Word preached. Rom. 10:17; Acts 20:20-21; 1 Thess. 2:13. Cf. BCF 1689 26:4-5.
 2. **Authority Assured: Christ's Made Provision for His Word to be continually preached to His Churches.** This was a transition from Apostles to Pastors.
 - a. Saved sinners always desperately need the Spirit's Ministry of Jesus' Word.
 - b. To accomplish this, Christ's Apostles required the Provision of Pastors/ Elders/Bishops in His Churches. – Acts 14:23. Cf. BCF 26:6-8.
 - c. Christ intended and gives a constant provision of Pastors and Teachers to His churches. – Eph. 4:7-8, 11-12.
 3. **Authority Implemented: Christ's Apostles Ordained NT Church Order, for Preserving Christ's Word to His Churches through the ministry of Pastors/ Elders/Bishops.** Here is His great love for us displayed in Five Actions:
 - a. Pastors must be Biblically Qualified to Minister Christ's Word. – 1 Timothy 3:1-2a.
 - b. Pastors must "hold fast" to Christ's Word in order to Minister to Christ's Church. – 2 Timothy 1:13-14.
 - c. Pastors must follow Christ's Word to Minister to Christ's Church. – 2 Timothy 3:14-17.
 - d. Pastors must Lead the Church by Christ's Word, Studying and Publicly Reading and Preaching it. – 1 Timothy 4:6, 13, 16.
 - e. Pastor's must Faithfully Preach and Teach Christ's Word even when the Church opposes them – 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Cf. BCF 26:9-11.
 4. **Authority Maintained: Christ has provided for the continual refilling of the pastoral office through the ministry of the Spirit and the Word, believed and proclaimed by men who desire the office.**
 - a. Pastors are to train other qualified men to be pastors. → 2 Timothy 2:1-2, 15; 3:10.
 - b. Those men, when recognized so, will then take up pastoral authority in particular congregations. → Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5.
 5. **When this method is followed carefully, Christ's authority is exercised, assured, implemented, and maintained by the pastoral office.**