Authority

**Submit yourselves to all human authority for the sake of God,**

**whether it be to kings because of their power,**

**or to judges because from them officers are sent to punish offenders**

**and to bestow honor on those who do good.**

**For such is the will of God that by your good works**

**you may silence the mouths of foolish men who know not God.**

**Act as free men; not as men who use their liberty as a cloak**

**for their maliciousness, but as the servants of God.**

***(I Peter 2:13-16)***

**September 11, 2001, was a “shock to the American psyche,” said Fareed Zakaria, and to ensure we’d never be attacked again, we overreacted. In the nine years since, al Qaida has not mounted a single major attack in the U.S., and now relies on poorly trained lone wolves who consistently botch poorly conceived plots. Yet to fight al Qaida, the government has created or recognized at least 263 anti-terror organizations, and tripled the intelligence budget to $75 billion. Several hundred thousand bureaucrats now wage the “war on terror” from 33 gleaming new office complexes that, together, are triple the size of the Pentagon. Some 30,000 people get paid simply to listen in on phone calls. This “national-security state” effectively has carte blanche to read your e-mails, screen your phone calls, and tread on Americans’ constitutional rights. In the past, the U.S. government has abused its authority during wartime, but then “demobilized.” But “this is a war without end,” so the abuses can continue indefinitely. “When do we declare victory? When do the emergency powers cease?” *(The Week magazine, September 17, 2010)***

**Fifty percent of all Internet traffic went through AOL at one point. It was the first Internet company to go public, in 1992. We had a market cap of $70 million. Eight years later, we had a market cap of $150 billion when we decided to merge with Time Warner. One of the personal lessons for me with Time Warner was that it’s important to have authority and responsibility aligned. It’s not a good situation if you’re unable to influence the outcome but you’re held responsible. *(Steve Case, co-founder of AOL, in Bloomberg Busniessweek magazine, as told to Diane Brady)***

**Jesus did not mean his mission was to start agitation, strife and war but his ideas were so revolutionary and contrary to the social and religious order of his day, they could not be carried out without revolution and war. His teaching upset dogmas and traditions and challenged the priestly authority. *(George M. Lamsa, in Gospel Light, p. 82)***

**The darker the man's suit, the more authority he's thought to have. Clothiers say that's the impression onlookers get, no matter what the facts. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**An “avuncular” family is one wherein the mother’s brother has more authority over her children than the father. Such there be among Hopis of the Southwest. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The cheapest and easiest thing in the world is to show your authority. You can show your authority till doomsday, and make people fear it, too; but you will never make them respect it. *(Henry Ford)***

**President Bush is claiming that a new postal law gives him the authority to read anyone’s letters without a warrant. If you’re upset about the law, you can let Bush know by writing to your sister. *(Conan O’Brien)***

**When you make your peace with authority, you become authority. *(Jim Morrison, rock singer)***

**Roman Catholic clergymen were not forbidden to marry until 385 A.D., when Pope Siricius decreed that it would be a good discipline for bishops, priests, and deacons. Those who were married at the time were expected to separate. Many did not agree and left the priesthood. Ironically, the first Pope, Peter, was himself a husband. *(Jeff Rovin, in The Unbelievable Truth, p. 22)***

**All power is given unto you in all the affairs of mind and body. Exercise your God-given power, authority and dominion and rise out of bondage. *(Myrtle Fillmore)***

**President Bush has claimed the authority to ignore or disobey at least 750 laws passed by Congress on the grounds that they conflict with his reading of the Constitution. In his eight years in office, Bill Clinton challenged the legitimacy of 140 laws. *(The Boston Globe, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 12, 2006)***

**Every healing of Jesus was a turning away from the illusion of good and evil to the recognition of the perfect Life of God as the only Reality. Because he understood this, he could speak with authority. He could order the man with the withered hand to stretch forth his hand because Jesus did not see a withered hand. He saw only the wholeness of Life*. (Jack E. Addington, in The Hidden Mystery of the Bible, p. 131)***

**The most astonishing part of the Internet is that nobody is in charge. Football teams have captains, and orchestras have conductors. We take for granted some form of authority, some hierarchy in almost everything. In childhood it comes from parents and teachers. In adult life it comes from bosses and government. While we may not always be pleased with where we stand in the hierarchy, at least we understand it. The Net – a reliable system comprised of loosely connected and imperfect parts that work because nobody is in control – shakes up all our centralist notions of hierarchy. *(Nicholas Negroponte, in Wired)***

**Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more. *(Mark Twain)***

**Authority without wisdom is like a heavy ax without an edge, fitter to bruise than to polish. *(Anne Bradstreet)***