

1. God's Established Authority Structures

Sub-title: Lessons on Authority from Genesis

- Today's message is intended to:
 - bring understanding about the source of many of life's problems
 - bring answers & solutions to men & women (families) so we can experience greater measures of God's peace & joy in our lives & homes
- In the book of Genesis, at the account of creation, we see that God has communicated & set in place an authority structure:
 - (Genesis - beginning, origin)
 - God's initial authority structure is still in place today
 - It has not been cancelled or superseded by another structure or method

Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV) *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and **God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***

- God created mankind and gave them (us) dominion (authority)
- He communicated & created an authority structure where:
 - God is the supreme authority over everyone and everything
 - God has delegated authority in the earth to mankind (Psalm 115:16)
 - God has delegated authority over the family primarily to the man

Genesis 2:8–9 (NKJV) *The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and **there He put the man** whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground **the Lord God made every tree grow** that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.***

- God planted the Garden of Eden and placed Adam in it
- At creation, God made three types of trees:
 - Every tree ... pleasant to sight & good for food

- Sin entered the world, and along with it death for the whole human race (Rom. 5:12)
- Their sin separated them from God (Isaiah 59:2), and satan became their spiritual father (John 8:44)
- Adam lost the authority in the earth that God had given him, and satan became the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)

Genesis 3:8-9 (NKJV) *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.** 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, **“Where are you?”***

- When God visited the Adam & Eve, they hid from His presence
- Something had gone drastically wrong in the “Adams family”, and the first thing that God said was: “Adam, where are you?”
- If anything goes wrong in a family, God is firstly looking for the man!
- Adam blamed his wife: “It’s the woman you gave me” (Gen. 3:12)

Genesis 3:13 (NKJV) *And the Lord God said to the woman, **“What is this you have done?”** The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

- 2ndly, God confronted Eve about her involvement & she blamed the devil

Genesis 3:14 (NKJV) *So the Lord God said to the serpent: **“Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.***

- Lastly, God confronted the serpent & declared judgement over his life
- Typically, many Christians blame the devil for the problems in their lives
- Others blame those close to them (spouse, friends, boss, co-workers etc.)
- Not many take full responsibility for the mistakes in their own lives

To reiterate:

- Something went wrong in Adam’s home
- He & Eve hid themselves from God because they were afraid
- When God visited them, He began to ask questions:

1. To the man He said: Adam, where are you?
2. To the woman He said: Because you have done this ...

3. To the devil He said: Because you have done this

Here is a typical scenario of what goes on in many people's lives:

1. The man blames the woman
 2. The woman blames the devil
 3. And the devil doesn't have a leg to stand on
- We get prayer requests, and sometimes there is a whole litany of words about what the devil is doing in people's lives
 - But remember, the devils can't just come into our homes & make us sick, or cause accidents or kill off our loved ones
 - There has to be an open door, a broken hedge so-to-speak, for the devil to wiggle his way into our homes (Eccl. 10:8)

Here is what really happened with Adam's family:

1. Adam ignored & rebelled against God's authority
2. He rescinded (gave up) his authority in the earth
3. He abdicated (neglected) his domestic authority
4. Eve usurped Adam's authority
5. Satan (the serpent) stole Adam's authority (Luke 4:6)

It's all about authority, and our response to it!

- Whenever there is trouble in a home, it is because of a disregard for God's established authority structure
- Men, we are the primary watchmen in our respective families (Is. 21:6)
- We are guarding every "entrance" into our home & family (Ezekiel 33:7)

Hosea 4:6 (NKJV) *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ...*

Open doors:

1. Disobedience to God (from the father downwards)
2. Prayerlessness (beginning with the father)
3. Involvement in the occult
4. Occultic paraphernalia, literature, movies, games (Acts 19:19)
5. Sexual vice (adultery, fornication, pornography, etc.)
6. Etc.