

Chapter 1 : Christian Authority | Done with Religion

God has two official YouTube channels - ChristianAuthority and LieKillers - they are both the ultimate choice of every intelligent Christian. While other channels mix lies with the truth, we say.

Tweet Please take a minute to read this letter I recently received from a year-old girl. Wommack, I realize that you must receive frequent letters regarding your ministry. But even with that knowledge, I feel compelled to write. When I was in junior high, I became involved in Wicca, or Paganism. For two- and-a-half years I toyed with the powers of Satan, calling on numerous demons to do my bidding. Not only was I demon possessed, but I was heavily into drugs and alcohol. A few months before I became a Christian, I began to realize that I was no longer in control. In fact, I was the one being controlled. At the moment I confessed my sin and gave my life to God, He delivered me from the demons, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sexual relationships I was involved in. The demons I once fellowshiped with tormented me day and night. I could see them in the corner of my room while I was trying to sleep. When I was outside at night, I could feel their presence. After a while, I began to cope with it, and it became an everyday part of my life. Almost four years after my conversion, I was still dealing with these demonic forces. It was only when I listened to your series that I understood the power and authority I have over them. Instead of literally hiding under my blankets at night for fear of the demon in the corner of my room, I smile, say a quick prayer of praise to God, and fall asleep. Your illustration of how we sometimes picture demons was of particular interest to me. You say that we picture them as towering beasts with claws and such, when in reality they are sniveling, little things. That is so true! The only power they have is the power we give them. What a blessing to finally realize that! My outlook on life has totally changed, thanks to your willingness to be used of God. If it were not for the godly truths of your ministry, I would still be enslaved by my fear. I am now actively pursuing the calling God placed on my life, a calling to ministry. I am excited and anxious for the future and the things that God will be able to accomplish through my obedience. Again I thank you for your willingness to step out in faith and be used of God. Praise the Lord for the power of the truth and how it sets us free John 8: Once the truth is received, deception loses all its power. Therefore, Satan loses all his power when we know the truth. In fact, many Christians are the very instrument the devil is using to foster the deception that he is still a powerful foe. People are expending great amounts of energy constantly battling the devil in ways contrary to Scripture, but in reality, Satan has already been defeated. We need to believe that Satan has already been completely destroyed Heb. The only power he has is the power to deceive. Our battle should be against the wiles trickery of the devil Eph. The only weapon Satan has is the power we give him when we believe his lies. Warfare only takes place between two undefeated foes. Once an enemy has been conquered, the war is over. Satan is a defeated foe. This means that after Jesus defeated Satan, He stripped him of everything he had, specifically the keys of death and hell Rev. Satan has no power to imprison anyone. Satan is like one of those bugs we had to capture for biology class. We caught it and then impaled it on a board with a little pin to exhibit it. You need to picture the devil nailed to the cross of Jesus like a bug on display. Upon conquering an enemy, the Romans would hold a parade. They would take the conquered king, strip him naked, and drag him through the crowd behind the conquering king or commander for all their subjects to see. They would also cut off the thumbs of his hands and the big toes of both feet. This was to assure the subjects this enemy would never be a threat to any of them again. He could not hold a sword and he would never be able to run again. There was no need to fear him any more. Any rumor about him ever challenging Rome again would be scoffed at because the citizens had seen him in the parade. The same thing happened to the devil. Jesus not only beat the devil, but He had a triumphant procession to display the devil to the universe as a totally conquered foe. Satan should never terrify us again. Unfortunately, many Christians have missed the parade. They are circulating rumors that Satan is a powerful foe to be reckoned with. Satan is still alive, and we do have to reckon with him but only because he has so many lies circulating about his power against us. If we believe his lies, he then uses our own authority, which our fear grants him, to work his destruction in our lives. He has no power of his own. When I was just beginning my walk with the Lord, I came into the knowledge that demons do exist, and they

are not all in Africa. We encounter demons often, and they are the workers of much of the evil we see every day. At first, this caused a fear in me that actually gave these demons in-roads into my life. On one hand, I was resisting them, but through fear I was also empowering them. An example of this happened to me in Arlington, Texas, where I grew up. I was in love with the Lord and wanting to minister to people. I rented a two-story house, right on the edge of the University of Texas at Arlington campus, and started fixing it up. This house had been a fraternity house, and there had been a lot of demonic activity in the house prior to our occupancy. The people were gone, but not all the demons were. There were some strange things about that place. One night I was working up there at 1 a. There was no one in that house except me, but I was being hit and choked, and I was fighting for my life. I ran out of that house and got in my car and backed out of the driveway. He was saying that the armor He had given me only worked when I faced the devil, not if I turned and ran. He never said anything else to me. I pulled back into the driveway and thought about that for what seemed to be an eternity. Finally, I got out of the car and walked back into that house. I spent the rest of the night fighting off fear and those physical attacks of the devil. When I left in the morning, the demons were gone, and there was a supernatural peace in that place. During that time, I had a lot of demonic attacks against me. I had dreams where demons would attack me, and I would wake up bleeding from those encounters. I was being physically attacked. That also happened one night in Louisiana at a Bible conference. It felt like I was being choked to death. I won, but these demonic encounters were not fun. Then one day as I was praying and binding every demon on every continent, it dawned on my lightning-fast mind that I was actually spending more time in my prayers talking to the devil and rebuking him than I was talking to the Lord. The Lord began to reveal to me that all my attention on the devil was actually giving him these in-roads into my life, which caused all these attacks. I repented and changed my thinking and focus and guess what? The fear is gone, and therefore, so is their power. This is an awesome revelation and one that is not the dominant theological position on Satan and demons today. This truth desperately needs to be communicated throughout the body of Christ.

Chapter 2 : Top 15 Christian Quotes About Authority

Authority must be understood by every Christian since it is the entire basis of our relationship with Christ. "Authority" means "the right to command and enforce obedience." When we accept Jesus Christ as our "Lord," this means that He is supposed to become our "boss" or "authority" over our whole life (Luke).

I went to church for years and never heard about the devil. But the truth is, we have an enemy. There are so many Christians who seem to be going through their daily life just hoping they can get through the day. They go from one problem or crisis to the next, and they lack a confident, bold faith in God that can keep them stable and full of His peace and joy in the difficult circumstances of life. He wants us to get to the point where we know what to do to have a great life and take responsibility for ourselves, trusting we can do whatever we need to do through the strength we have in Christ Philippians 4: This means we know who we are in Christ and how to walk in the authority we have as believers in Jesus. When we accept Christ as our Savior, we receive the assurance of eternal life, but we also become joint heirs with Christ Romans 8: This authority has been given to every believer. And our enemy only has the authority that we give him. Many times we give him the ability to attack us through ignorance. The devil hates anyone who is trying to do any good in the world, and his influence can be seen in the evil things people do. We live in a war zone: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights NKJV. We need to learn how to be proactive and resist the devil immediately. Notice this verse says to resist him at his onset. Be firm in your faith at all times, and resist the enemy immediately when he comes against you. God has a plan for your life, and walking in the authority you have in Christ is an important part of experiencing His will for you. It contains life and has the power to renew our mind, heal our brokenness and change our lives! I want to encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God and study the Word. Go for quality, not quantity; meditate on Scripture so you really get it deep down in your heart. Make a predetermined decision to apply what you learn to your life. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and He will show you how to obey the Word in your daily life. Remember that in Christ, you have everything you need to enjoy your life and have the abundant life He died for you to have. God has equipped you to stand up to whatever comes against you. She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.

Chapter 3 : CHRISTIAN AUTHORITY

I applaud the focus on the power and authority of Jesus Christ. It is an essential element of Christian Ministry--vocational or avocational. The article focus is primarily on power and comparative power.

So often we look up to those who are in leadership positions. We put our faith and trust in the pastor of our local church, or the evangelist who comes and speaks during revival services. We tend to think that those who are in authority and leadership positions are more knowledgeable about spiritual matters, and able to lead others to God better than the normal average christian. The truth is we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and we are all capable to be leaders in the sense we can encourage and help build up those with whom we have contact along the way. Christian leadership is no more than brothers and sisters in Christ who have lived and experienced more in spiritual matters lending a helping hand to those who are still maturing in their walk with God. There is no position of authority in this type of leadership. It is done out of love and compassion for one another and the desire to be used by God to encourage others in their walk with Him. What I see so often in allowing people to take authority over one another is that it places an intermediary between God and man. Fortunately, not all people in leadership positions think this way and they are serving out of true love for God and for helping their fellow believer. Yet so often we hear of people in authority that demand our allegiance. They insist we listen to them and follow what they teach or else. This is a great misuse of authority in the christian world today. I do not believe there are offices of authority and leadership in the sense we hear about it today. Those who have been given positions of leadership in the body of Christ are not in a higher standing than anyone else. They are to lead by example out of love for those who are still learning like everyone else. They are to be encouragers by example, helping build up their fellow believers into maturity. Thinking more of others than you do yourself. So often it seems like just the opposite with men and women thinking they are the ones with authority and knowledge. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. What I believe is the final authority among Christians is the Holy Spirit who lives within us. The bible can be used by the Spirit as a guide and help, but the bible is only a tool the Spirit uses. Apart from the Spirit there is no final authority in any person or book. Although we can learn from the bible and we can learn from one another and their experiences, it is the Spirit of Jesus from within us who is the final authority and the head of the body known as the Church. The Church is not a building, not a denomination or an organization, it is each of us who are equally functioning and necessary parts of the body of Christ. Links to the other contributors are below. If you enjoyed this article, you will also enjoy reading what they have to say about the topic of Authority.

Chapter 4 : The Source of Authority In Christianity

A solid understanding of spiritual authority is vital to build your faith when casting out demons, healing the sick, and exercising your authority over the powers of darkness. When we have been given authority to cast out demons, but instead we pray that God brings the demon out instead, we are.

As the world grows spiritually darker at the end of this age Isa True soldiers of Christ must engage the spiritual forces of wickedness through authority and power Eph 6. The answer is all around us in the form of rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, and spiritual forces of wickedness Eph 6. There is a sense of urgency for the true church of Christ to get real with God! We are in a spiritual war but how many Christians operate as soldiers of Christ? Often the church seems powerless on such a battlefield; it sees the damage caused by the enemy in terms of governmental, social and personal mayhem, but too often it does not engage with the problem. And if it does respond it is often ineffective because it fails to use the spiritual authority and supernatural power Christ has given to His church. Secular Human Authority Before looking at spiritual authority, it is important to understand how we should respond to the secular authorities that are increasingly controlling our lives. Paul says that all governing authorities come from God: For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God" Rom It is the basis of a law-abiding society. Paul sees such authority as the "minister of God - for good" Rom So even though the NT Christians were living under a pagan government and a corrupt taxation system, they were still expected to obey the authorities and "do good". Are there any exceptions to this pattern? Today we are living in an increasingly secular society and under an increasingly humanistic government. Under the guise of "equality", laws are being passed that are essentially unbiblical and anti-Christian. In particular, the Equality Act prevents a Christian from upholding his or her Christian ethos in the work place. If something is biblically unethical or immoral they are acting unlawfully if they make a stand on an issue. Under such circumstances we must ask ourselves if the authorities are still a "minister of God - for good" Rom It is an absolute truth. The correct action is then to take the higher truth. Here He was effectively saying that, "whatever else you do, the most important truth to follow is this": God planned his government just like He planned the following Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman governments. His government prospered hence the gold and people learnt mathematics, astronomy, history and science. Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and demanded everyone worship it. Most obeyed the authorities and did so, but three God-fearing Jews Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego did not. They disobeyed secular authority in order to obey a higher law - the second commandment Exod The essence of such a law is that a member of one faith must not say or write anything that could be construed as insulting to another. It could be argued that, according to Rom 13, the Christian should obey the law and be in subjection to the authorities. He or she should not say or write anything which could be construed as insulting to another faith. To obey the law of the land is absolutely correct and true. But Jesus called His followers to be salt and light in society and to go into all the nations and preach the gospel Matthew For a Christian this is also absolutely true and correct. This is another example where we have to choose between two truths. When placed in an identical situation the response of the followers of Jesus was to choose the higher truth: Spiritual Authority and Spiritual Power Jesus said: So authority here is closely linked with the concept of power, and the KJV uses the word power rather than authority. The Authority of the Enemy For those of us on planet earth, the enemy claims to hold all the cards Lk 4. But Satan is still "god of this world" and he tries to veil the gospel 2 Cor 4. And at the very end of this age he will give his "power and great authority" to the coming world dictator Rev Only in the Millennium will Satan be bound Rev It is important to understand how Satan got such authority. Recall that man was created "a little lower than God" Ps 8. Man was second in the hierarchy of beings, and all angels were in third place below God! Man was to rule over creation Ps 8. So it was rebellious man who gave Satan authority to rule the world in this present age! Hierarchies of Spiritual Authority God has ordained hierarchies of authority in His creation. For example, Christ has authority over the church, the husband has authority over the wife Eph 5. But note that the one with greater authority does not have greater value to God than one with lesser authority. Rather, those with higher authority should take the

responsibility, and also protect those who are more vulnerable. Similarly, in order to work in or sometimes confront the spirit world it is important to understand spiritual authority. In particular it is important to know the command structure. There is a hierarchy in the angelic world according to scripture. Note that Michael, one of the chief princes came to the aid of another angel who was unable to defeat a prince of Persia Dan The cherubim and seraphim seem to have important assignments in the presence of God, and then there are myriads of angels Heb Hierarchies of Spiritual Authority 5. The NEB translates this as "no rights over Me". As already discussed, Satan has limited authority whilst Christ has all authority. The Father has given all things including Satan into His hand Jn 3. As a king Jn Jesus showed His authority in many ways: He healed every kind of disease Mat 9. Our Authority and Rights in Christ 6. His kingdom has been invaded. He told the Pharisees that He has the authority and power to bind the owner and then plunder his house Mat The outcome is certain; Satan will soon be crushed under our feet Rom Because Christ has redeemed us we have a legal basis for our authority; authority in Christ is our legal right. And it is always there even when we forget it. But when Jesus ascended into heaven the disciples needed His supernatural presence in order to continue their work. Jesus said they had to wait until they had been given power from heaven: In the name of Jesus we can ask the Father for anything in line with His will: The baptism releases manifestations of the Spirit 1 Cor

Chapter 5 : Authority--False View | calendrierdelascience.com

Summary Human & Biblical Authority. In a law-abiding society we are all charged with obeying human authorities i.e. government (Rom). But given recent secular humanistic 'equality' legislation the Christian finds it increasingly difficult to obey the authorities whilst obeying God!

Tweet We live in a time where there is a true lack of respect for authority. We see it in our homes as children are disrespectful and disobedient to parental authority. We see it in public as criminals have no respect for the authority of law enforcement figures. And we even see it in our churches when people have no regard for pastoral authority and leadership. They may know Him as Savior but they never surrender to His ultimate authority over their life. Understanding authority begins with a right relationship with Jesus. When we humbly submit to His authority and rule over our life then submitting to earthly authority falls right in line. Authority is the subject of many Christian quotes. Here are my top 15 Christian quotes about authority. Let them in their several stations encourage virtue. Let them favor and take part in any plans which may be formed for the advancement of morality. Lewis 11 The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve. It is not enough that we be just, that we be righteous, and walk with God in holiness; but we must also serve our generation, as David did before he fell asleep. God has a work to do; and not to help Him is to oppose Him. These will procure obedience, gain respect, and maintain authority. He guides into truth, sanctifies its agents, and empowers for witnessing. The Spirit has never abdicated His authority nor relegated His power. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls. It is an attempt to be God. When we confuse spheres, by violating the proper boundaries of church and state, for instance, or reducing the academic life to a business enterprise, we transgress the patterns that God has set. Just click the button below to get started.

Chapter 6 : What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Authority?

christian authority One of the great causes of conflict in the Body of Christ is the failure to note the radical difference between the authority of Jesus and the authority of the world.

Does the Bible give any one individual spiritual authority over another individual? Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you" Hebrews Yes, the Bible clearly states that God gives some individuals spiritual authority over others. Of course, we must begin with the highest authority, which is God. When Job was wrestling with the problem of pain and suffering in his life, he acknowledged that God made all things, and no one is able to challenge His authority Job 9: Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, holds all authority Matthew Because of our sinful nature, and because of the abuses or failures of authority that we have experienced, most people struggle on occasion with submitting to authorities. One level of authority that God has granted to men is civil or governmental. When we resist their authority, we are actually resisting God. The Bible reminds us in Colossians 3: This ladder of authority is stated again in 1 Corinthians Children are commanded to submit to their parents in Ephesians 6: Just as God established authority within civil government and the home, so He established specific authority within the church. As Christians, we are all joint-heirs with Christ Romans 8: Though God is no respecter of persons Romans 2: The early church recognized the authority of the apostles and submitted to their teaching and direction Acts 6: Next to the apostles in authority were the elders, or pastors, of the churches. As Paul and Barnabas established churches in their missionary journeys Acts These elders presbyters were responsible for teaching pastoring , supervising being a bishop , and being examples to the church 1 Peter 5: As spiritual leaders, these elders have a greater responsibility to God James 3: Believers are told to acknowledge and respect those who are over them in spiritual matters 1 Thessalonians 5: In matters of authority, the underlying guiding principle is submission. Perhaps the most surprising thing is that He has also taught that one of the highest qualifications for those in positions of authority is humility. This is the example that Jesus, the highest spiritual authority, gave when He became the humblest of all and submitted to die in our place Philippians 2:

Chapter 7 : Authority Definition and Meaning - Bible Dictionary

by Jim Gordon Many people seem to look toward those who take authority in the Christian world. So often we look up to those who are in leadership positions. We put our faith and trust in the pastor of our local church, or the evangelist who comes and speaks during revival services.

There are many things by which authority is needed. We also are subject to authority in all things. There is authority in the home. There is a system of right and wrong in each of these systems. In most cases right is rewarded and wrong is punished. Our study is with religious authority. We must determine what it is and where it comes from. Everyone agrees that authority is right, but disagree on where it comes from. They rely on different standards to base their authority. In Christianity there is only one right standard. We need to define two terms in this study; Christianity and authority. Christianity is the system and life taught by Jesus Christ and the apostles. It is peculiar to Christ. Yet in each case, it centers around Him. Christianity is a system of teaching or doctrine with Christ as the teacher. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. How He is, determines the condition of the system. Without the sun, the whole system ceases to exist. We cannot exist without the sun. Neither, in the spiritual realm can we exist without the SON. The new standard dictionary defines authority as: The right to command and to enforce obedience; the right to act by virtue of office, station, or relation; as the authority of the parent over the child. Authority is of two kinds. This grows out of the relation of those who have the right to command and those whose duty it is to obey. That is, the right to command and to enforce obedience which can be given to another by the one holding primary authority. What is primary authority? Primary authority in christianity resides in God. In fact, the entire Godhead has ALL authority. What is delegated authority? The first delegation was from God to His Son. While here on earth, Jesus had this authority, but He had to go. As Jesus prayed in John In the case of the apostles, who were not divine, there was to be given them the tools necessary for this authority. This is know as divine inspiration. This was made possible by another part of Diety. The Holy Spirit was to guard against mistakes in giving out the message from God, and revealing His laws. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. They are still exercising their authority. Jesus said that they would rule through the rest of time. In the same way, if we are to know Jesus, we have to know His word spoken by the apostles and other Divinely inspired men. If the things in this lesson are true, and they are, then Christianity is divine. Human authority has no place in the plan. No one has a right to preach anything different from what the Christ and the apostles taught men to do. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. Anything we do, we must have written authority in order to be correct and right. Without the proper written authority, our practice is wrong no matter how good it makes us feel.

Chapter 8 : What does the Bible say about authority?

Authority is one of those words that usually creates an instant emotional reaction-in some folks, fear and distrust, in others safety and order. While Jesus was the image of love and gentleness, he also possesses and exercises great authority.

When we have been given authority to cast out demons, but instead we pray that God brings the demon out instead, we are basically asking God to do something that He gave US the tools to do ourselves! Jesus told US to cast out demons! Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us to ask God to cast out demons! We are not told to ask God to cast out demons, we are told to do it ourselves! We are not told to beg demons to come out, we are told to CAST them out! For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. The power of life and death are in the spoken word: He cast out demons using His authority: I have never seen where Jesus prayed, "Father, please heal this person! Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Jesus said that those who believe will have the Holy Ghost flowing out of their innermost being John 7: Authority to cast out demons Notice that we are never told to beg or coax the demons to come out, neither are we told to pray and ask God to remove them, but we ARE told to cast them out! He also gave ALL believers authority to heal the sick and cast out devils as well! There is a lot to be learned from the story told in Mark 9: He also made it clear that some demons are so strong that a higher than usual level of faith is required to cast them out verses 28 and 29 , and that we can gain that higher level of faith through prayer and fasting verse His powerful video training series is now available!

Chapter 9 : Spiritual Authority - Andrew Wommack Ministries

The Source of Authority In Christianity. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, {19} that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. {20} Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God.

The Christian concept of the Messiah differs significantly from the contemporary Jewish concept. The core Christian belief is that through belief in and acceptance of the death and resurrection of Jesus, sinful humans can be reconciled to God and thereby are offered salvation and the promise of eternal life. Jesus, having become fully human, suffered the pains and temptations of a mortal man, but did not sin. As fully God, he rose to life again. According to the New Testament, he rose from the dead, [38] ascended to heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father [39] and will ultimately return [Acts 1: In comparison, his adulthood, especially the week before his death, is well documented in the gospels contained within the New Testament, because that part of his life is believed to be most important. The death and resurrection of Jesus are usually considered the most important events in Christian theology, partly because they demonstrate that Jesus has power over life and death and therefore has the authority and power to give people eternal life. Arguments over death and resurrection claims occur at many religious debates and interfaith dialogues. Salvation Christianity Paul the Apostle, like Jews and Roman pagans of his time, believed that sacrifice can bring about new kinship ties, purity and eternal life. The Catholic Church teaches that salvation does not occur without faithfulness on the part of Christians; converts must live in accordance with principles of love and ordinarily must be baptized. Reformed theology places distinctive emphasis on grace by teaching that individuals are completely incapable of self-redemption, but that sanctifying grace is irresistible. Together, these three persons are sometimes called the Godhead, [56] [57] [58] although there is no single term in use in Scripture to denote the unified Godhead. Though distinct, the three persons cannot be divided from one another in being or in operation. While some Christians also believe that God appeared as the Father in the Old Testament, it is agreed that he appeared as the Son in the New Testament, and will still continue to manifest as the Holy Spirit in the present. But still, God still existed as three persons in each of these times. In some Early Christian sarcophagi the Logos is distinguished with a beard, "which allows him to appear ancient, even preexistent. From earlier than the times of the Nicene Creed, Christianity advocated [63] the triune mystery -nature of God as a normative profession of faith. According to Roger E. Olson and Christopher Hall, through prayer, meditation, study and practice, the Christian community concluded "that God must exist as both a unity and trinity", codifying this in ecumenical council at the end of the 4th century. The distinction lies in their relations, the Father being unbegotten; the Son being begotten of the Father; and the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and in Western Christian theology from the Son. Regardless of this apparent difference, the three "persons" are each eternal and omnipotent. The Greek word trias [66] [note 3] is first seen in this sense in the works of Theophilus of Antioch; his text reads: It is found in many passages of Origen. Trinitarianism Trinitarianism denotes those Christians who believe in the concept of the Trinity. Almost all Christian denominations and churches hold Trinitarian beliefs. Since that time, Christian theologians have been careful to emphasize that Trinity does not imply that there are three gods the antitrinitarian heresy of Tritheism, nor that each hypostasis of the Trinity is one-third of an infinite God partialism, nor that the Son and the Holy Spirit are beings created by and subordinate to the Father Arianism. Rather, the Trinity is defined as one God in three Persons. Nontrinitarianism Nontrinitarianism or antitrinitarianism refers to theology that rejects the doctrine of the Trinity. Various nontrinitarian views, such as adoptionism or modalism, existed in early Christianity, leading to the disputes about Christology. Christianity, like other religions, has adherents whose beliefs and biblical interpretations vary. Christianity regards the biblical canon, the Old Testament and the New Testament, as the inspired word of God. The traditional view of inspiration is that God worked through human authors so that what they produced was what God wished to communicate. The Greek word referring to inspiration in 2 Timothy 3: Others claim inerrancy for the Bible in its original manuscripts, although none

of those are extant. Still others maintain that only a particular translation is inerrant, such as the King James Version. The books of the Bible accepted by the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant churches vary somewhat, with Jews accepting only the Hebrew Bible as canonical; there is however substantial overlap. These variations are a reflection of the range of traditions, and of the councils that have convened on the subject. Every version of the Old Testament always includes the books of the Tanakh, the canon of the Hebrew Bible. These books appear in the Septuagint, but are regarded by Protestants to be apocryphal. However, they are considered to be important historical documents which help to inform the understanding of words, grammar and syntax used in the historical period of their conception. Modern scholarship has raised many issues with the Bible. Another issue is that several books are considered to be forgeries. The injunction that women "be silent and submissive" in 1 Timothy 2 [83] is thought by many to be a forgery by a follower of Paul, a similar phrase in 1 Corinthians 14, [84] which is thought to be by Paul, appears in different places in different manuscripts and is thought to originally be a margin note by a copyist. A final issue with the Bible is the way in which books were selected for inclusion in the New Testament. Other Gospels have now been recovered, such as those found near Nag Hammadi in , and while some of these texts are quite different from what Christians have been used to, it should be understood that some of this newly recovered Gospel material is quite possibly contemporaneous with, or even earlier than, the New Testament Gospels. The core of the Gospel of Thomas, in particular, may date from as early as AD 50 although some major scholars contest this early dating, [86] and if so would provide an insight into the earliest gospel texts that underlie the canonical Gospels, texts that are mentioned in Luke 1: Scholarship, then, is currently exploring the relationship in the Early Church between mystical speculation and experience on the one hand and the search for church order on the other, by analyzing new-found texts, by subjecting canonical texts to further scrutiny, and by an examination of the passage of New Testament texts to canonical status. Catholic interpretation Main article: Catholic theology of Scripture In antiquity, two schools of exegesis developed in Alexandria and Antioch. Alexandrine interpretation, exemplified by Origen, tended to read Scripture allegorically, while Antiochene interpretation adhered to the literal sense, holding that other meanings called *theoria* could only be accepted if based on the literal meaning. The spiritual sense is further subdivided into: The allegorical sense, which includes typology. An example would be the parting of the Red Sea being understood as a "type" sign of baptism. The anagogical sense, which applies to eschatology, eternity and the consummation of the world Regarding exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation, Catholic theology holds: The injunction that all other senses of sacred scripture are based on the literal [92] [93] That the historicity of the Gospels must be absolutely and constantly held [94] That scripture must be read within the "living Tradition of the whole Church" [95] and That "the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome". Clarity of Scripture Protestant Christians believe that the Bible is a self-sufficient revelation, the final authority on all Christian doctrine, and revealed all truth necessary for salvation. This concept is known as *sola scriptura*. The significance of the text includes the ensuing use of the text or application. The original passage is seen as having only a single meaning or sense. The moment we neglect this principle we drift out upon a sea of uncertainty and conjecture. Taken together, both define the term Biblical hermeneutics.