



Kingdom Authority: *Spheres of Authority* (Week 2)

Aloha everyone and welcome back to our series, *Kingdom Authority*. In this series we'll give you a roadmap – a table of contents for everything we'll be covering throughout the year. At any point in the year you can refer back to this series to remember what we've covered and where we are going next.

At the beginning of the year Pastor Mike gave a foreword to everything the Lord has been revealing to us for 2022. He talked about the transformation from Simon to Peter and how God, through His grace, is going to empower us to become our best selves – who He designed us to be and to live in right relationship with Him. From there we will take extreme ownership over the different areas of our lives and experience God's Shalom (peace).

Last week, Pastor Theresa kicked off our Kingdom Authority series by having us reflect on our own perception of authority. Each of us has been exposed to different types of authority – some good, some not so good, but last week we were invited to reimagine authority in light of a Biblical perspective.

Today we are going to be talking about the different spheres of authority God wants us to take extreme ownership over in order to experience His Shalom (peace). Throughout the year we will go into greater depth into each of these spheres but today we're just giving you the pupu platter. The spheres we'll be covering are: Individual, Family, Church, and Government. But before we can exercise Godly authority in each of these spheres, we need to understand what Godly authority looks like and where it comes from.

OG Discussion Question: What 'Spheres of Authority' has God entrusted to you?

Author, Authority, Authenticity

Last week, Pastor Theresa gave us a comprehensive explanation on Biblical authority. And if we were to take each of those examples she shared and paint them into one picture, we could say that Kingdom Authority is,

The freedom to decide and the right to act without hindrance within a given sphere to bring about Shalom. (Shalom doesn't just refer to peace or lack of conflict but wholeness)

As Pastor Theresa shared, in order to understand how to walk in Godly Authority (Kingdom Authority), you have to know where that authority comes from. Much like the Roman Centurion in Luke 7 who understood the Authority of Jesus because he himself was under authority. And if you ever forget where your Authority comes from, the answer is in the word: AUTHORITY. The root word of 'Authority' is 'Author'. Where does our authority come from? Authority comes from the Author.



The word Author comes from the mid-14c word *auctor, autour, autor* "father, creator, one who brings about, one who makes or creates" someone or something. But my favorite definition of 'Author' is Originator. Do you know God as the originator?

¹⁶ "For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy," (Colossians 1:16-18 NIV).

Each of us finds our origin in Him, the family unit finds its origin in Him, the Church finds its origin in Him, even government finds its origin in Him. If we want to walk in Author-ity in each of these spheres, we need to go to the Author, the Creator, the Originator.

So what happens when we catch the heart of the Author and we live as the Author intended? He grants us His Author-ity. And what happens when we exercise that Authority in a given sphere of our lives, be it in our families, our Church or the government? You ready for this? You get, Authenticity. Authenticity is when something is genuine because it is true to the original design or how the Author intended it. How many of us know our world is starving for authenticity? We don't know what's real anymore. We live in a world of augmented reality, half-truths and fake news. We don't know what to believe anymore. Church, God is calling us back to His design for our lives, His original design for families, He wants the Church to rise to its original calling and for our Government to reflect His Kingdom. When you know God, you know peace. But with no God, no peace. We need to spend time with the Author to know His original intent.

Who remembers our 3 outcomes for 2022? Pastor Mike touched on them in his foreword but here's the remix. By the end of 2022 we at New Hope Central Oahu want to be a people who:

1. Submit to the Author: *Give God Control*

We're saying, "God, you're the originator not me. I may not always understand your design but I submit to You in all things." When we do that we...

2. Walk in Kingdom Authority: *Own My Role*

Once we catch the heart and intent of God for the different spheres of our life we take extreme ownership over those areas. The buck stops with us. This empowers us to...

3. Live Authentically: *Make life Whole*

As we exercise Kingdom Authority over the different areas of our lives we will experience the power of God transform each of those spheres into reflections of His Kingdom, which brings His Shalom (Peace).

So in 2022, what's our goal? Give God Control, Own My Role, Make life Whole.



OG Discussion Question: What challenges do you face in aligning the different spheres of your life with God's design? (Not knowing God's design, Faith, Temptation, etc.)

The Spheres:

With the rest of our time, I want to give you just a brief snapshot of the different spheres we will be taking authority over in 2022. We will go into greater depth into each of these spheres throughout this series and throughout the year, but what was God's original intent for each of these spheres?

It is important to understand that while these spheres may overlap in certain areas, each sphere has a unique primary function and each of us will be held accountable for how we exercise our authority in these areas.

The Individual

This sphere pertains to our personal lives. Where did we originate? Where did the idea for man come from? The Author of man is the Creator. We find our origin in Genesis 1,

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground," (Genesis 1:26 NIV).

So mankind originated with the Creator. As the Creator, He determines what it means to be truly human. That's not the government's role or society's role. The Authority of the individual is also found in this passage. As His image-bearers, we have been given Authority to *Present* God to creation. We are called to present His image, His character, His nature, and authority to creation. We were created to rule and to reign with God.

So to live Authentically means to be an Image-bearer. You are never your truer self than when you present God to creation. Without His authority our lives are chaos and confusion because we are uncertain of our God-given identity and purpose. Today we are seeing a wide-spread identity crisis in our nation. We need to get back to God's original intent.

The Family

The next sphere of authority is the family. Who is the Author of the Family? Family originated with the Father! He defines family. We find this account in Genesis 2. God the Father brings His children, Adam and Eve, together in the garden,

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh," (Genesis 2:24 NIV).

Here, God reveals the most basic family unit – a husband and wife.



The primary Authority of the Family is to *Provide*. The love of husbands and wives provides a model of how Christ loves the Church. Parents provide their children with Godly discipline and instruction.

⁴ *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise," (Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ESV).*

Who is the Lord talking to when He says, "Teach them diligently to your children"? Educators? Government? Youth Pastors? He's talking to parents because it is the family's primary role to provide training for their children. Other spheres may play a supporting role but God gives the family that authority. The family is also responsible for providing basic necessities for life such as food, clothing, and shelter.

³ *Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.*

⁸ *Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever," (1 Timothy 5:3,4,8 NIV).*

The Family is God's way to provide for our basic needs. As the Author of family, God the Father provides a blueprint for His original design for family in His Word – More on this in our family series. An Authentic Kingdom Family is a Model of Love but without His authority we experience absence and abuse. Without Kingdom Authority in the family, spouses go unloved and neglected. Children do not receive the instruction they need to live a Godly life. Can I get in your business a little bit? How are we doing in walking out our Kingdom Authority in the home? Do our marriages provide a model of God's love? Are you providing a Godly model for your children? Children, are you honoring the role-models God has provided in your life?

The Government

The Author of Government is The King. Origin - Genesis 9

Here God is establishing a new covenant with Noah and his family following the events of the flood. God's covenant to Noah echoes that of Adam and Eve. He tells them to be fruitful and multiple and take dominion over the earth.

⁵ *"And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. ⁶ "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind, (Genesis 9:5-6 NIV).*



Here we see the earliest and most basic form of government. God is establishing a system of authority by which life is protected. So the primary authority of Government is to - Protect
The Government protects those within its sphere from internal and external threat. Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2 tell us that Government has been given authority to prosecute – to punish wrongdoers.

The Government protects the economy through fair taxation.

⁶ "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor," (Romans 13:6-7 NIV).

Jesus said, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

So the Government exists to protect. Again, we're going to do an entire series on each of these spheres so stay tuned. Last week, you heard Pastor Theresa say that here at New Hope Central Oahu, we may not always agree with the person in authority, but we respect the office that God has placed over us. I want to echo that. Here at New Hope Central Oahu, our heart is never to disparage those God has put in authority for our protection. We pray for them. When it comes to our first responders, many who are in this Church, the servants of God whom He has given for our protection, we honor you and we pray for you.

When a Government operates in a way that is authentic according to God's Word, it represents a Holy Nation. We pray that our laws and our leaders would reflect His precepts. We believe that the life of the land is perpetuated in His righteousness. When leaders don't walk in Kingdom Authority, a number of problems arise: Weak Government - Anarchy, Oversized Government - Welfare State, Corrupt Government - Class system, Imbalance in power - Dictatorship. We need to pray for our authorities.

Church

Throughout scripture we see the people of God. These are a people who are set apart for God and live in a way that reflect His Kingdom on earth. But the birth of the Church is found in Acts 2. The Author of the Church is the Great High Priest (Jesus Christ).

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses. Then in Acts Chapter 2 the Holy Spirit fills His people who become the living temple – the Church. So the Church is not a building or a time that people gather but rather the people of God, the living temple where His Spirit abides.

Jesus, our Great High Priest, has given His Church Authority to *Proclaim*.



The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18, Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore Go..." He's saying by the power vested in Me I now deputize you to go and proclaim. We have been given Authority to proclaim the way of salvation, to proclaim the truth of who Jesus is. Matthew 16, Peter makes a confession of faith, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." And Jesus says, "Upon this rock" what rock? The foundational statement of truth that He is the Son of God, "Upon this rock I will build my Church." We have been called to proclaim the truth (1 Timothy 3) and to proclaim God's love (1 John 3).

A Church that is walking in its Kingdom Authority and living Authentically will be a City on a Hill shining for all the world to see. But when the Church does not operate in its God-given authority you see license and legalism prevail. License because God's people live as they see fit or legalism because we don't know His grace. We are called to proclaim the full gospel of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

OG Discussion Question: Do you agree or disagree with any part of this overview of the Spheres of Authority? (Primary Purpose, Origin, what Authenticity looks like, etc.) In what ways do you think these spheres overlap?

Conclusion:

Our prayer is that every one of us would walk in our Kingdom Authority in 2022 and bring wholeness to each area of our lives. As Pastor Theresa shared at our kickoff, each of us was created to rule and to reign with God upon the earth. Your choices and decisions hold more weight than you realize.

You see Adam and Eve were given Kingdom Authority over the earth. That was their sphere. But they were given a choice: Rule and reign with God or rule and reign in place of God. That's what the forbidden fruit represented. Submit to the Author's original intent or define good and evil for yourself. God didn't care about no fruit! He was after their hearts. It was never about the fruit. Adam and Eve's choice in the garden not only affected them, but because of their Kingdom Authority, it affected their sphere. By choosing themselves over God they plunged their sphere into the kingdom of darkness. You see, there are no neutral choices. Because of your God-given authority, every choice you make aligns your spheres with one of two kingdoms – The kingdom of darkness or the Kingdom of God. How will you wield your Kingdom Authority in 2022? Parents, God has entrusted you with a sphere of influence – Your family. Whom will you serve in 2022? Young people, you have a tremendous responsibility to present God as His image-bearer. This is why you were created. Whom will you serve in 2022? Bosses, God has given you a sphere of influence in the workplace. Whom will you serve in 2022? Each of you must choose for yourselves whom you will serve in 2022, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Who's with me? In 2022, what's our goal? Give God Control, Own My Role, Make life Whole.

	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY	GOVERNMENT	CHURCH
AUTHOR	THE CREATOR GENESIS 1	THE FATHER GENESIS 2	THE KING GENESIS 9	HIGH PRIEST ACTS 2
AUTHORITY	PRESENT	PROVIDE	PROTECT	PROCLAIM
AUTHENTICITY	IMAGE-BEARER vs. CHAOS/CONFUSION	MODEL OF LOVE vs. ABSENCE/ABUSE	HOLY NATION vs. ANARCHY/DICTATOR	CITY ON A HILL vs. LICENSE/LEGALISM

