

All Authority

Description

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Mark 1:21-34

Near the end of a wedding ceremony you will sometimes hear a minister say, “Forasmuch as this man and woman have consented together in holy wedlock . . . as a minister of the gospel, and by the authority granted to me by the State of _____, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together.” Governments have various requirements for those who perform weddings. Typically this authority is granted to ministers and other officials. They are expected to solemnize only weddings which meet the requirements of law.

I have reminded couples wanting to be married that, only they, with God’s help, could make a marriage that would last.

Those who witnessed Jesus’ ministry in Capernaum recognized an authority beyond anything they had encountered before. Later, Jesus used the same word in declaring to His disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matt. 28:18). “Go and make disciples of all nations” (v. 19).

God’s authority resides in Christ; our authority is derived from Him as we fulfill His will and proclaim His Word in the power of His Spirit.

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