

**HOW**

**CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

**ARE DECEIVED**

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There is only room for one Head...

“And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,” (Ephesians 1:22)

“Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; “ (1Timothy 6:15)

The New Covenant is very clear. There is only one leader of the church---Jesus Christ.

He is the only One who is to have authority (power) over Christians.

If this is so--then the big question is:

Who is the pastor?

Who is that guy on Sunday morning--the priest--the bishop--the elder--the pastor?

Who is this person--the “leader” of the church?

What rights does he have in your church?

Is he (or she) the only one who can talk?

Does he decide what is going to happen every week?

Is he the only one who is allowed to teach?

What about the money entrusted to this person?

Think about it.

How much authority does this person have?

Oh, I know--he's a really, really, nice guy--loves God--educated--has all the "right moves".

He's devout.

He's "on fire" for the Lord.

He's pious.

He's wise.

He's genuine.

He's down-to-earth.

He's got what it takes.

He's worked hard to get where he's at.

He's powerful in God.

He's gentle and kind.

He's been approved by the board of governors.

Hey--maybe you even elected him!

In fact, maybe he is just what YOU want him to be!

But stop and consider.

What about Jesus Christ?

Doesn't He have all these good characteristics--and more?

No argument there!

Except, just one thing.....

Your pastor is a sinner.

Jesus Christ is not!

Well SOMEBODY has to be in charge--right?!

SOMEBODY has to carry on with the meeting--make sure everything is the way we expect it to be.

Maybe it is our **expectations** that create this need.

Maybe it is the way we meet together, that makes us believe that we need to have a "pastor" who "has authority" over us.

Here is what I mean...

Let's say you believed that God has asked you to build a bicycle. You believe that He has asked you to put it together, piece by piece--but, you were missing one piece--the handle bar. Obviously a bicycle is no good at all without a handle bar--a bicycle NEEDS a handle bar! That bicycle will not work at all without a handle bar. A bicycle will not work without a handle bar, to guide it, to steer it--and in the same way, it's obvious that a church NEEDS a pastor!

You see, the problem is not the pastor--and the problem is not the handle bar.

The problem is that God did not ask us to build a bicycle in the first place!

Christians work hard--hard--hard building bicycles--and of course, of course, of course every one of those bicycles NEEDS a handle bar!

But God did not ask us to build a bicycle.

He asked us to build a rocket ship!

## Jesus' Rocket Ship

In the Bible, Jesus gave us the plans for building a rocket ship.

He demonstrated a way to get people saved and healed and delivered and fed and loved and set free.

He did it fast--fast--fast.

He demonstrated a non-authoritarian government.

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (John 5:30)

Here is how it worked....

Jesus had a Boss.

He had a Boss, who was far away--but still His Boss.

He knew that His Boss had given Him power (authority) to accomplish the mission He had been sent to accomplish.

Get the concept.

The Leader is far away. But He has given you a plan, a purpose to carry out.

First let's understand the purpose, then we will look at the plan.

The Mission:

“The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”  
(Luke 4:18-19)

The mission is to give out Good News.

The Good News is that God loves us and desires to save us.

To save us from our sin.

To heal us from all our sickness.

To deliver us from all our problems (and all the problems Satan might want to give us!)

And who did the Boss tell Jesus to bring this message to?

“When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**” (Mark 2:17)

“....to preach the gospel to the poor; ..... the brokenhearted,.....the captives.....the blind.....them that are bruised,”

Bring the message to the people who need it. Do not repeat the message to those who are already okay---right?!

Part of the mission is to take the hurting people, and set them free to carry on the mission.

“.....to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Free.

Set people free to work with you.

How to carry on the mission?

Here are the instructions that Jesus' received from His boss...

“When you start out, get a small group of people together.”

“Teach them the basics.”

“Love others. Let others know that God loves them. Let them know how God wants to heal them and deliver them.”

“Then, in the same way I gave you authority---give them your authority.”

“Yes that's right--give them your power.”

“Tell them that if they have faith, if they will just believe God can work through them--they too will do all the same things you do...”

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12)

It's a hard concept to understand.

How to lead without authority over others.

Let's make a comparison.

It's a lot like a shepherd, when he feeds sheep.

Feeding sheep is really very easy.

You don't have to make food for them yourself.

You don't have to throw seed at them (that's how you feed chickens!)

No. Feeding sheep is really easy--it's an act of freedom.

You just open a gate, and they do the rest.

“Now, Son, there is a special part of the mission that only you can accomplish.”

“Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, **Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now;**..... (John 13:36)

“You need to lay down your life to save all people--for all people to be able to come into this covenant and share this mission.”

“After the special part of the mission is done, there is a change.”

“You can take my place Son.”

“You are now the Head.”

“They are all the Body.”

“We will give gifts to each of them.”

“These gifts are meant to work together--to carry the mission--to build the Body.”

“Some of the Body are those who shall be sent with the mission.”

“This is the first and primary focus.”

“Some shall be gifted to speak your instructions through our Presence in the earth, the Holy Ghost. This is the way You will communicate the specifics of the mission to them.”

“Some will be gifted to teach and release others within the body.”

“The small groups will make more small groups.”

“Your presence shall therefore be made manifest in these small groups--wherever they meet.”

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

“Yes, a network, not an empire.”

“Teach them to serve others and not exercise authority one over another.”

“But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, **Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;**”

(Matthew 20:25-26)

“But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, **Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.**”

(Mark 10:42-44)

“Teach them to be brothers and sisters. To submit equally to one another.”

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (1Peter 5:5)

“To care the most for, and honor the least member.”

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

(1Corinthians 12:12-27)

“Have a meeting.”

“2 or 3 can teach, or prophecy or sing--not all at once--decently--courteously.”

“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

“Respect the ministry that is in all members.”

“When the word comes--ACT.”

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.”

(Acts 13:1-4)

“Be doers of the Word not hearers.”

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)

It’s really very simple. Pray and ask God what He wants done. Since you are in a small group, you can go out and do it. It’s simple, but it is powerful.

Build a rocket ship.

The church in the Bible was a God-operated network.

The fact is that Christian leaders build a different church based on different principles.

Different format. (a big group)

Different definition of “ministry”.

The mission is diluted.

### How Christian Leaders Are Deceived

Church functioning is a repetitive ritual, which stresses the authority of one leader.

This repetitive ritual, becomes experience. Our tradition--our strong example.

The ritual of church is sensual. It is experienced by our senses. The Bible tells us not to follow after traditions. The Bible tells us not to follow what our senses say, because they can blind us to the truth the Word of God states.

“The authoritarian example benefits us.”

We learn things from it, specifically from the leadership. In the church ritual, it seems as if the leader is the only person who who can minister. We then believe that the “authority” OF THAT ONE PERSON IS FROM GOD--AND THE BEST EXAMPLE OF WHAT TO DO AND FOLLOW AFTER.

Problem: Jesus told us not to have “beneficial authority”...

“And he said unto them, **The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye *shall* not *be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.**

(Luke 22:25-27)

Now, of course the leader of the church has ministry--but that doesn't mean all the rest of the church has none! Of course the leader has authority--but the Bible says that God gave us all this same power and He gave us all ministry. (it comes from God!)

1 ¶ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 ¶ With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.....

.....11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-12)

The leader of your church might teach you that you have authority--power--and a ministry to fulfill.

But--where is the place for your ministry?

NOT IN CHURCH!

What a strange statement that is!

We all ARE the church!

But it is one of those strange statements we make because we are building a bicycle when God told us to build a rocket ship.

## How To Become A Christian Leader

Simple (but expect to work very hard!)

Believe firmly in the system of authority.

People who become leaders are people who strongly believe in following leaders.

Christian leaders are people who believe strongly in the system and format of church and the authority of church leaders.

They have received from the system. It has helped them. They are thoroughly convinced it is correct.

They are people who believe in building bicycles.

They are the most blind to the rocket ship.

Think About A Nice Catholic Boy.....

Think of a nice catholic boy. A young man, who loves God, sincerely, with all his heart. He genuinely desires to serve God. He wants to follow Jesus. But he has grown up with an experience. Something he has seen--over and over and over again. He was raised in his church system. So, his genuine desire to serve God, becomes translated into what is considered by his system, to be the best path.

He goes to seminary. Along the way he makes vows of allegiance to his church--as it is--and the leadership he believes he is "under".

He ends up a "success".

He ends up a leader--in a position of authority over other believers.

A handle bar on a bicycle.

I can hear you talking, protestant-----"Oh those catholics! All that hierarchy and rulership!"

But take a good look in the mirror, protestant!

How did your pastor attain his position?

Answer: the same path.

The protestant pastor is the catholic priest.

Need proof of this?--study history. Better yet, look at the "history lesson" that is all around us. First go to a catholic church. Next week go to an older protestant denomination. The next week go to a hip-hoppy cutting edge church. What is the difference between the priest and the pastor? What is the difference in the format of the meeting? What is the difference in the definition of "ministry"? Aren't all eyes focused on this one leader? In many instances, the protestant pastor is given more attention and more "authority" than the catholic priest.

A protestant pastor attains his position by basically the same path as the catholic priest. "Bible school" replaces seminary. Perhaps there are no official "vows of allegiance"--but talk to a pastor. They will tell you about their "spiritual father"--someone who was "in authority over them". Someone really nice who ministered to them and helped them--lead them--"saw the gift" in them. (a gift that fits the already establish idea of what "ministry" is in that church) But they will firmly believe that they were "under the authority" of that person. They will believe it every bit as much as the catholic priest believes in his hierarchy.

It was a difficult road. A lot of "grunt work" Spiritual "boot-camp". A lot of work "under" someone, until the time came when they were convinced they were now "over" others.

Christian leaders are the people most convinced that the system of human authority is correct.

They enforce it on others.

They work hard within the system.

The system benefits them.

They are deceived.

(Oh, there is one more way to become a Christian leader.....)

Be related to an existing leader.

Some how, just as in the system of kings and queens and princes and princesses, if you are related to an existing Christian leader, you too can be a leader!

## A TYPICAL STORY.....

If you were to ask many people who are “in authority” within a church, you might hear a story that is similar to this:

“I never wanted to be in this position. I just went to church like anyone else. But as time went on, people came to me and saw the gifts that I had. They always seemed to pick me to do things in the church. I KNOW that God led me in these things. I KNOW that God was encouraging me to go along step by step in this process. Deep in my heart I wanted to teach other people about God, I wanted to pray for other people, I wanted to guide other people and see that they were blessed and helped by God. It was something that just came naturally to me and I never sought after anything--but somehow, people came to me and put me in this position. It was just part of a natural process. I was encouraged by others to go to ministry school, and I KNOW the Lord was in on that. After that, opportunities came my way, and I KNOW that God was behind these opportunities. All I did was to serve others the best I know how, and love others the best I know how, and share what God has done for me. Some how people reacted to my testimony, to my teaching. They encouraged me to become a pastor, I never really sought after this at all.”

This truly is an honest, typical story of how many folks become “pastors”.

But notice one thing about it.

Where is the Bible in all this?

It is very easy to try to find examples that follow this idea. We can try to look at little snips in the Bible, or examples from the old testament, to try to verify this experience. But once again, here we go, taking an already established experience, and trying to make the Bible verify it. We should do it the other way around. We should repent of our experience, and then see if we can understand the truth the Bible gives us.

Notice how that in our example, the “verifications” of a ministers’ authority come from either an already established experience, or a word from people (people who are in fact a vital part of that experience). Pastors, church leaders, are put in authority by people, not God. And it is very very hard for any of us to separate these two things. We love others within a church. We respect their opinions. We should do these things. But these things can become so powerful, coupled with the repetitive authoritarian experience of “church” that they can make us believe these ideas are “from God” and “in the Bible”.

Most people who “wake up one day” and find themselves “in authority” in a church, authentically have worked very hard at serving others. They have worked very hard at praying for others, at helping others, and absolutely this is from God and His will (but do they realize that this is God’s will for every believer!?). These are people who have had good results in serving others. As we said elsewhere, their gifts “fit” a place in the church system.

So, they have followed God for a time, and listened to Him and served others well. They have had results. Could we find a Biblical example of this?

Yes.

Jesus began His ministry by finding a group of 12 ordinary men. He taught them, but more than that, He gave them hands-on experience in doing what He did. The apostles traveled with Jesus, and understood His teachings, and ministered to others with Him. They saw results. They laid hands on the sick, they fed the poor, they spread the Gospel of His coming kingdom.

And then they came to a point, where they had this problem:

“And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.” (Luke 22:24)

Jesus answer was this:

25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye *shall* not *be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. (Luke 22:25-26)

A similar situation came about in the book of Mark....

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. (Mark 10: 35-37)

Jesus answer was this:

42 But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:42-45)

The same situation came about in Matthew also.....

20 ¶ Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping *him*, and desiring a certain thing of him.

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. (Matthew 20:20-21)

Again, Jesus' answer was this:

25 But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus said to serve others, and not rule over others. Follow His example, which as HE said--was to NOT exercise authority over others.

Addendum

“You Are So Mean!”

Okay, I know what some of you are saying...

“You are so mean! What right do you have to criticize Christian leaders! They work very very hard and do a great work for the Lord. They are doing their best and they help so many people.”

“How can you be so mean to attack them, to undermine their good work! You are shaking the very foundations of Christianity!”

Please, please, please, look again very carefully at this booklet.

We do not mention any names here.

We do not make “attacks” on any individuals.

Yes, we mention some denominational names, but look at what we are saying. No single Christian group or denomination is being criticized directly. We look openly at the Bible and find this common deception in every denomination, and every church! At the same time we certainly understand that within every denomination and church there are many individuals who, when directly responding to God’s call, are in fact doing the “right stuff”.

So, who put this deception into the church?

Who are we “blaming”?

To understand this answer, you must study Christian history (another subject we find lacking in most churches!). The “blame” for the wrong definitions we have of ministry and authority and the authoritarian format so prevalent in the church, falls upon people who lived hundreds and hundreds of years ago.

1700 years ago the Roman empire gave the church a “make-over”.

Christian history, all 2000 years of it, is a big awful ugly and beautiful subject. In this little booklet we are not going to attempt to study all of it of course. However, we would like to look at a few key points in history that have a lot to do with where our idea of “ministry” came from.

## Rome, ruled by the “kings of the Gentiles”.

In the 4th century, the church changed drastically. Up to that time, the church had been persecuted by the Roman empire (much as it had been in the time of the Bible). But suddenly there was a huge turn-a-round. The emperor Constantine completely reversed these persecutions. He made it legal to be a Christian and in fact invited Christians to be part of the Roman government (remember Jesus’ warning?--apparently the believers of that day did not!). Of course, one could hardly blame the persecuted church of that day! Imagine, one minute they were being thrown to the lions, the next they were invited to a party at the emperors palace!

Perhaps they believed God had delivered them from the horrible persecutions of the empire. Regardless of what they thought, the well-recorded fact is that the church began to be joined to the Roman empire, and it’s form of government.

A number of years later, another emperor (Theodosius by name) took another step. He made Christianity the “official religion” of Rome. This act brought huge change to the structure and operation of the church.

Imagine this:

Imagine that today, there was a king of the world who had absolute power (that is just about what the Roman emperor was). Imagine this king of the world showed up one day in your church and said “I really really like your church. Here’s what I’m going to do. I’m going to make your church the one, true, universal church. I’m going to make everyone go to your church--by law!”

A tempting offer! What if you had no real choice in the matter? Suddenly, the emperor has kicked all the pagans out of their temples, and given them all to you!

Imagine. Millions of people are now coming to your church! What would you do? Well, obviously, the church has to get a make-over--and it did--this is a well recorded fact...

**“Masses of people joined the church. Their registration and care required completely new forms of organization and ministry”**

This is a quote from a catholic history book! (a very honest one indeed!) History records that “ministry” was re-invented in this long ago age, by a very unusual circumstance. This same book went on to say that.....

## “Simple apostleship was no longer needed”

Well, it made sense, sort of. No need to witness the Gospel out to the world any more, or work in small groups. Everyone was forced to be a Christian.

New functions and ministry had to be **INVENTED**--- and they were.

Okay, since everyone is forced to attend church, let's pick a day for mandatory attendance. Of course the church did not need to do any outreach, just concentrate of teaching----teaching----teaching----teaching----teaching----teaching-----everyone. Play some nice music while we're at it.

“Ministry”--it's definition and function changed. Somebody had to be in charge over the masses of unlearned people now forced into the church building.

The events of the 4th century have been debated over and over again ever since they happened. Many people in that day protested the idea--but in those days, they really had no choice. The important fact for our study is that these events really happened, and if you think they do not influence us today, please open your eyes!

**FACT: in the 4th century the church was changed and ministry was redefined.**

Who re-defined things?

Roman emperors.

The Roman government operated the church.

What did Jesus think of the Roman government?

“But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:”

(Mark 10: 42-43)

“But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

(Matthew 20:25-28)

“And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye *shall* not *be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.”

(Luke 22:25-27)

Was Rome a Gentile kingdom?

Yes.

What did Jesus think of the government of the Gentiles?

Look.

He was specifically critical of one particular aspect of it.

He did not like the way they exercised authority one over another.

He specifically said that it should not be so among His followers.

It is very clear, that 1700 years ago, the Roman government changed the church. It redefined ministry and created an authoritarian format. It is also very clear that this format was strictly adhered to by the church which was birthed by the Romans (the catholic church) and it is also clear that the succeeding protestant churches have followed this authoritarian format every bit as strictly for centuries.

You see, the deception that this booklet is describing was originated centuries ago, by non-Christians!

But not really.

The real truth is that the deception was originated by Satan.