

### Mark 11

"<sup>27</sup> And they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, and scribes, and elders came to Him, <sup>28</sup> and began saying to Him, "**By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?**" <sup>29</sup> And Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>30</sup> Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me." <sup>31</sup> And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' <sup>32</sup> But shall we say, 'From men?' - they were afraid of the multitude, for all considered John to have been a prophet indeed. <sup>33</sup> And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "**Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.**"

### What is going on here?

- ✓ The Jewish leaders are asking Jesus to produce official credentials of his authority.
- ✓ Jesus' response reveals that the leaders had no interest in submitting to spiritual authority outside themselves.
- ✓ Jesus therefore refuses to give them more revelation.

### Matthew 13

"<sup>12</sup> For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

### Mark 11:33

"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

**Am I demanding more information when I have not responded to what I already have?**



**We are called to stand against strong spiritual winds as we seek to be IN but not OF the world.**



- ✓ Our Fallen nature
- ✓ American culture
- ✓ Abusive authority

### Understanding the story of Adam & Eve

- ✓ They were created to bear the image of God as **stewards** of creation.
- ✓ They were **tempted** to find life independent of God.
- ✓ The Fall left them **worshipping** that which was to be their stewardship.

**They declared their independence.**

**By nature we are always  
after God's job  
or at least wanting to be  
His consultant.**



#### *Romans 1*

“<sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not **honor Him as God, or give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and **exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.** <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

#### *Understanding the Jewish culture of Jesus' day*

- ✓ **They had been given a special **stewardship** over God's kingdom.**
- ✓ **They paid lip service to God as they became proud, independent, and **rebellious**.**
- ✓ **They refused to respect God's **authority** through His prophets and even His Son.**

***They declared their independence.***

#### *Mark 12*

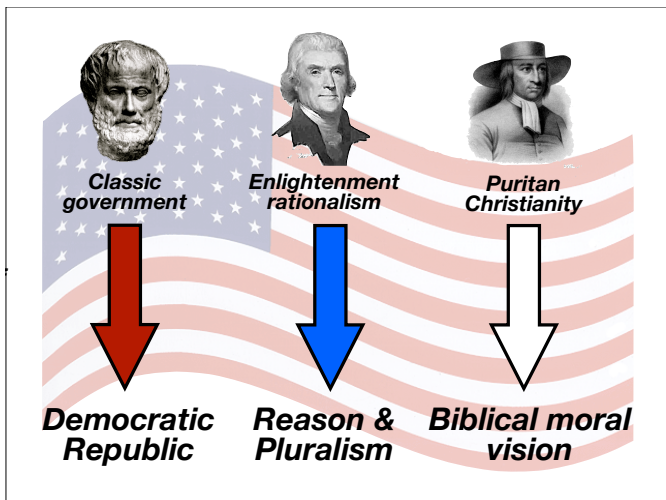
“<sup>1</sup> And He began to speak to them in parables: “A man *planted a vineyard, and put a wall around it, and dug a vat under the wine press, and built a tower*, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. <sup>2</sup> And at the harvest time he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers. <sup>3</sup> And they took him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>4</sup> And again he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. <sup>5</sup> And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some, and killing others.”

“<sup>6</sup> He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>7</sup> But those vine-growers said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!’ <sup>8</sup> And they took him, and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. <sup>9</sup> What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others. <sup>10</sup> Have you not even read this Scripture: ‘*The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone*; <sup>11</sup> *This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes*’? <sup>12</sup> And they were seeking to seize Him; and yet they feared the multitude; for they understood that He spoke the parable against them. And so they left Him, and went away.”

#### **Understanding our culture**

- ✓ **American culture was founded in a spirit of rebellion against external authority from church or state.**
- ✓ **America's founding father's respect for the Bible was conditioned by the Enlightenment's core values (independence, rationalism, and prideful nationalism).**

***We declared our independence.***



✓ We have a special contempt for external authority.  
✓ We have a special commitment to personal autonomy.

The block contains an illustration of the Statue of Liberty on the left and a map of the United States with the American flag pattern on the right.

**"Why don't Catholics get to vote on church policy?"**

***This is America!"***

The block features a Catholic priest, a large wooden cross, and a yellow emoji wearing a top hat with stars and stripes.

**"No one has the right to tell me what I have to believe or do to be a good Christian."**

***This is America!"***

The block includes a yellow emoji wearing a top hat with stars and stripes.

**"Upon this rock we will build OUR church and no external authority shall stand against it."**

***This is America!***

The block features a yellow emoji wearing a top hat with stars and stripes, positioned next to a drawing of a church and the Statue of Liberty.

## Protestantism - 670 million

- **Baptist churches - 105 million**
  - Southern Baptist Convention - 16.3 million
  - National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. - 7.5 million
  - National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. - 5 million
  - Nigerian Baptist Convention - 3 million
  - Progressive National Baptist Convention - 2.5 million
  - American Baptist Churches USA - 1.4 million
  - Brazilian Baptist Convention - 1.4 million
  - Baptist Bible Fellowship International - 1.2 million
  - Myanmar Baptist Convention - 1.1 million
  - Baptist Community of the Congo River - 1 million
  - National Baptist Convention, Brazil - 1 million
  - National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. - 1 million
  - National Missionary Baptist Convention of America - 1 million
  - Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches - 0.8 million
  - Baptist Convention of Kenya - 0.7 million
  - Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia - 0.6 million
- **Anabaptism and Free churches - 5 million**
  - Schwarzenau Brethren/German Baptist groups - 1.5 million
  - Mennonites - 1.5 million
  - Plymouth Brethren - 1 million
  - Moravians - 0.7 million
  - Amish - 0.2 million
  - Butterfies - 0.2 million
- **Quakers - 0.4 million**
- **Waldensians - 0.05 million**
- **Methodism - 75 million**
  - United Methodist Church - 12 million
  - African Methodist Episcopal Church - 3 million
  - Methodist Church of Great Britain - NA
  - Methodist Church Nigeria - 2 million
  - African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church - 1.5 million
  - Church of the Nazarene - 1.9 million
  - Methodist Church of Southern Africa - 1.7 million
  - Korean Methodist Church - 1.5 million
  - United Methodist Church of Ivory Coast
  - Christian Methodist Episcopal Church - 0.9 million
  - Methodist Church Ghana - 0.8 million
  - Free Methodist Church - 0.7 million
  - Primitive Methodist Church - NA
  - Chinese Methodist Church in Australia - NA
  - Free Wesleyan Church - NA
  - Free Methodist Church in Canada - NA
  - Methodist Church in India - 0.6 million
  - Evangelical Methodist Church - NA
  - Wesleyan Methodist Church-Allegheny Conference - NA
  - Christ's Sanctified Holy Church - NA
- **Congregationalism - 5 million**
  - Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola - 0.9 million
  - United Congregational Church of Southern Africa - 0.5 million

- **Lutheranism - 87 million**
  - Evangelical Church in Germany - 26.9 million
  - Church of Sweden - 6.9 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - 4.8 million
  - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - 4.7 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - 4.6 million
  - Danish National Church - 4.5 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland - 4.3 million
  - Batak Christian Protestant Church - 4 million
  - Church of Norway - 3.9 million
  - Malagasy Lutheran Church - 3 million
  - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod - 2.4 million
  - The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria - 1.7 million
  - United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India - 1.5 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.9 million
  - Andina Evangelical Lutheran Church - 0.8 million
  - Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil - 0.7 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia - 0.6 million
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa - 0.6 million
- **Presbyterianism - 40 million**
  - Presbyterian Church of East Africa - 4 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Africa - 3.4 million
  - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - 3.0 million
  - United Church of Canada - 2.5 million
  - United Church in Australia - NA
  - Presbyterian Community of Congo - 2.5 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Korea - 2.4 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Cameroon - 1.8 million
  - Church of Scotland - 1.1 million
  - Presbyterian Church of the Sudan - 1 million
  - Presbyterian Church in Cameroon - 0.7 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Brazil - 0.7 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Ghana - 0.6 million
  - Presbyterian Church of Nigeria - 0.5 million
  - United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million
  - Presbyterian Church in America - 0.3 million
- **Continental Reformed churches - 30 million**
  - Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar - 3.5 million
  - United Church of Zambia - 3.0 million
  - Protestant Church in the Netherlands - 2.5 million
  - Swiss Reformed Church - 2.4 million
  - Evangelical Church of Cameroon - 2 million
  - Protestant Evangelical Church in Timor - 2 million
  - Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa - 0.7 million
  - United Church in Papua New Guinea - 0.6 million
  - United Church of Christ in the Philippines - 0.6 million
  - Protestant Church in Western Indonesia - 0.6 million
  - Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua - 0.6 million
  - Protestant Church in the Moluccas - 0.6 million
  - Reformed Church in Hungary - 0.6 million
  - Reformed Church in Romania - 0.6 million
  - United Reformed Church in Southern Africa - 0.5 million
- **Pentecostalism - 130 million**
  - Assemblies of God - 60 million
  - New Apostolic Church - 11 million
  - International Circle of Faith - 11 million
  - The Pentecostal Mission - 10 million
  - Church of God (Cleveland) - 9 million
  - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel - 8 million
  - Church of God in Christ - 6 million
  - Apostolic Church - 5.5 million
  - Christian Congregation of Brazil - 2.5 million
  - Universal Church of the Kingdom of God - 2 million
  - Church of God of Prophecy - 1 million
  - God is Love Pentecostal Church - 0.8 million
  - Indian Pentecostal Church of God - NA

- **Non-denominational evangelicalism - 80 million**
  - Calvary Chapel - 25 million
  - Born Again Movement - 20 million
  - Association of Vineyard Churches - 15 million
  - New Life Fellowship - 10 million
  - True Jesus Church - 2.5 million
  - Charismatic Episcopal Church - NA
- **African initiated churches - 40 million**
  - Zion Christian Church - 15 million
  - Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim - 10 million
  - Kimbanguist Church - 5.5 million
  - Church of the Lord (Aladura) - 3.6 million
  - Council of African Instituted Churches - 3 million
  - Church of Christ Light of the Holy Spirit - 1.4 million
  - African Church of the Holy Spirit - 0.7 million
  - African Israel Neweth Church
- **Seventh-day Adventist Church - 17 million**
- **Restoration Movement - 7 million**
  - Churches of Christ - 5 million
  - Christian Churches and Churches of Christ - 1.1 million
  - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - 0.7 million
- **Nontrinitarianism - 27.5 million**
  - Latter Day Saint movement (Mormons) - 14.1 million
  - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - 13.8 million
  - Community of Christ - 0.25 million
  - Jehovah's Witnesses - 7.3 million
  - Iglesia ni Cristo - 6 million
  - Oneness Pentecostalism - 6 million
  - United Pentecostal Church International - 4 million
  - Pentecostal Assemblies of the World - 1.5 million
  - Church of Christ, Scientist - 0.4 million
  - Elders of Men - 0.07 million
  - Christadelphians - 0.05 million
- **Anglicanism - 82 million**
  - Anglican Communion - 80 million
  - Church of Nigeria - 18 million
  - Church of England - 13.4 million
  - Church of Uganda - 8.8 million
  - Church of South India - 3.8 million
  - Anglican Church of Australia - 3.7 million
  - Episcopal Church in the Philippines - 3.0 million
  - Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia - 2.5 million
  - Anglican Church of Tanzania - 2.5 million
  - Anglican Church of Southern Africa - 2.4 million
  - Episcopal Church of the United States - 2.2 million
  - Anglican Church of Canada - 2.0 million
  - Anglican Church of Kenya - 1.5 million
  - Church of North India - 1.3 million
  - Church of the Province of Rwanda - 1 million
  - Church of Palestine - 0.8 million
  - Anglican Church of Burundi - 0.8 million
  - Church of the Province of Central Africa - 0.6 million
  - Church of Christ in Congo-Anglican Community of Congo - 0.5 million
  - Scottish Episcopal Church - 0.4 million
  - Church of Ireland - 0.4 million
  - Continuing Anglican movement - 1.5 million
  - Traditional Anglican Communities - 0.5 million
  - Anglican Church in North America - 0.1 million
  - African Orthodox Church - NA
- **Nestorianism - 1 million**
  - Assyrian Church of the East - 0.5 million
  - Ancient Church of the East - 0.3 million

**One of the reasons Orthodox Christianity is so offensive to American culture is that it calls for submission to authority outside our control.**



**“I do not mind submitting to the rules if they are MY rules!”**

***Our culture is too much like ancient Israel***

- ✓ It pays lip service to God.
- ✓ It stands with God when He is championing our political interests.
- ✓ It mixes the Kingdom of God with American values - democracy, nationalism, capitalism, individualism, etc.

**“We have been led to believe that personal fulfillment is only possible if we submit to no one but self not realizing that our deepest fulfillment is in submitting to something outside of & greater than self.”**

*humans are designed to worship!*



## **We are not designed to be autonomous**

**(unsubmitted to proper authority).**

- ✓ There is no peace in independence from God and proper authority.
- ✓ Our ministry is limited outside of proper authority.
- ✓ Our growth is stifled outside of proper authority.

## ***How are we to relate to external authority?***

- ✓ We must first examine our hearts - are we demanding independence?
- ✓ Our willingness to submit to God frees us to submit to a lot of "human authority."
- ✓ When we challenge abusive authority we must do so as ambassadors under a higher authority than ourselves.

**At the root of all abusive  
power is a "rebel spirit."**

**Before we can address  
abusive power in others  
we must address the  
"rebel spirit" in us.**

## ***How do I know if I have a rebellious spirit?***

- ✓ Hyper sensitive to any sign of authoritative structure or leadership.
- ✓ A history of resisting external, human authority.
- ✓ Unwilling to submit to anything I don't find comfortable or my style.
- ✓ Intolerance, lack of forbearance, bitterness, and independence, characterize my life.

## ***How can I repent of a rebellious spirit?***

- ✓ I must first own it and strongly desire to be free of it.
- ✓ Submit my life to Christ - take my baptism seriously.
- ✓ Discipline myself to look past human authority (to God) as I submit to it.
- ✓ Look at myself as a servant and not recoil when others treat me like one.

**Those who are submitted to  
the authority of Christ have  
more power than those who  
declare their independence  
from him.**

**And they will have grace and  
peace in the use of power.**



### ***How are we to confront abusive authority?***

- ✓ Respect the position of authority - language, posture, timing, etc.
- ✓ Be more concerned to correct than confront and condemn.
- ✓ When and if you must part, don't make a scene or start a civil war.
- ✓ Support, protect, and educate victims of abusive authority.

### **Stephen R. Covey**



“Between stimulus and response is our greatest power - the freedom to choose.”

### **Example of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.**

**Disciples are submitted to the authority of God and able to respect & critique human institutions as a result.**