

Liberty

The counterpoint to authority is liberty. The primary word translated liberty is ελευθερια (also free and delivered):

- Matthew 17:26 “Then the sons are *free*.”
- John 8:32, 33, 36 And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you *free*.
- Romans 6:18, 20, 22 Having been set *free* from sin, ... slaves of righteousness
- Romans 7:33 If her husband dies, she is *free* from that law
- Romans 8:2 ...set me *free* from the law of sin and death
- Romans 8:21 ...creation will be *delivered*...into the *liberty* of the children of God.
- 1 Corinthians 7:21 – 22 If you [slave] can be made *free*, rather use it
- 1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not *free*?
- 1 Corinthians 9:19 Though I am *free* from all men, I have made myself a servant
- 1 Corinthians 10:29 Why is my *liberty* judged by another’s conscience?
- 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:11, Revelation 6:15, 13:16, 19:18 ...whether slave or *free*
- 2 Corinthians 3:17 Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is *liberty*.
- Galatians 2:4 ...to spy out our *liberty* which we have in Christ
- Galatians 4:22, 23, 30 the child of the *freewoman*
- Galatians 4:26, 31 But the Jerusalem above is *free*
- Galatians 5:1 Stand fast in the *liberty* by which Christ has made us *free*.
- Galatians 5:13 You have been called to *liberty*, only do not use *liberty* as an opportunity for the flesh.
- James 1:25 The perfect law of *liberty*.
- James 2:12 ...those who will be judged by the law of *liberty*
- 1 Peter 2:16 ...as *free*, not using *liberty* as a cloak for vice
- 2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them *liberty*, they themselves are slaves

Summary of liberty:

- Under the Law of Moses, individuals were granted authority (Matthew 23:3).
- Many passages contrast law and liberty.
- With liberty comes responsibility.

Summary of honor, obey, and authority:

- To honor is to count someone or something as worthwhile or valuable.
- Three entirely different words are translated “obey.”
 - Hearken: consider advice
 - Obey as a description of action (not implying authority by the one obeyed) except
 - Hebrews 13:17 “Obey those who have hegemony over you” Obey is in the middle voice, adding the concept of choice by the one obeying.
 - Titus 3:1 The admonition to obey earthly leaders is absolute.
 - The third “obey,” when used as a verb, is always in the middle voice when obeying humans, adding the concept of choice by the one obeying.
- Authority by humans is given only to apostles and only in two areas: financial support and edification.
 - That the translators many times chose “power” shows that the word implies enforcement ability.

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- “Power and authority” emphasizes the strength to enforce.
- Christians have authority over themselves. (1 Corinthians 8:9)
- Christians have authority to eat the sacrifice (Hebrews 13:10)
- Christians rule over the nations with Jesus (Revelation 2:26)
- Christians have the authority to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14)
- Apostles have the right to be supported (1 Corinthians 9:4 – 18, 2 Thessalonians 3:9)
- Apostles are the authorities of edification (2 Corinthians 10:8, 13:10)
- Prophetesses were to wear head coverings to illustrate their submission (1 Corinthians 11:10)

No authority (enforcement ability) is mentioned for church leaders. What does the New Testament say about church leadership?

- The most common leadership model today appoints elders, bishops, pastors, etc.
 - All leaders were appointed miraculously? (Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23, Acts 16:4, 1 Timothy 3:1 – 7, 5:22, although Timothy was not told to appoint.)
 - No congregations were encouraged to appoint elders.
- Ephesians 4:11 – 16 contains the expiration clause for those miraculously appointed leaders: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Claiming that they exist today rejects Jesus prayer of John 17:20 – 24.
- What problems of leadership are mentioned in the New Testament
 - Galatians 2:11 – 21 Paul corrected Peter
 - 3 John 9 – 10 Diotrephes. Claiming exclusivity is the mark of a false leader.
 - Acts 20:28 – 30 From among your own selves ...
 - 1 Timothy 4:1 – 4, 6:3 – 5 giving heed to deceiving spirits
 - 2 Timothy 3:6, 4:3 – 4 itching ears
 - 1 Peter 5:1 – 4 not lording it over
 - 2 Peter 2:1 – 3 secretly bring in destructive heresies
- What instructions are given to followers?
 - Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5 submitting to one another
 - Galatians 5:13 do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh...serve one another
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31 God composed the body...greater honor to that which lacks
- Hegemony, authority by consent of the followers, is the New Testament generic word for leadership, meaning that this type of leader is granted the role because it makes sense to the followers to do so. Not everyone in a congregation necessarily follows the same leaders.
 - Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24 ...whose faith follow
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 15 ...esteem them highly in love
 - Matthew 2:6 ...who will shepherd My people Israel
 - Luke 22:26 ...he who governs shall be as he who serves
 - Acts 7:10, 14:12, 15:22 Three examples of hegemony
- Even hegemony can be overdone, but has its own cure (1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17, 3:4 – 23)
- In the early church, who taught? (1 Corinthians 14:26)