

# Authentic Authority

## **Intro:**

matt 7:15-20

One of the main arenas of spiritual warfare in taking every thought captive - is in the realm of who has authentic authority

How can we know the difference? Look at the evidence - "look at what is before your eyes"

You will know them by their fruit...

## **Problem:**

Matt 7:21-23

you will know them by their fruit - its not about who you know but who knows you

Paul lays out the fruit of authenticity in both this section and the next...and begins with this very point...

## **Main Idea:**

You will know them by...

Their master

Their mission

Their method

Their measuring rod

## **Implication:**

jer 9:23-26

both in 1 Cor 10:31 and here he quotes Jeremiah...

Paul is not against boasting and authority but in false boasting and false authority

Jer 1:1-9

It is no small thing to know Him and be known by Him...

To know His mission, His method, His measure...

Jeremiah knew it...

(Jer 14:13-16; 23-32)

Its is no small thing to fake it

Isaiah 3:9, 11; 5:8, 11, 18, 20; 6:1-8

Isaiah knew it...do you?

## **Application:**

Acts 20:28-32 - even with the best intentions we can go outside the bounds of His authority...no one sets out to be a fraud

Be discerning not only in giving authority

But in wielding it...

2 Cor 3:1-3

This is not only about false teachers it is about you - the world is full of frauds - don't be one of them...

2 cor 5:16-20

If you are a Christian whether you like it or not you are an ambassador -you are called to wield authentic authority in this world

Spiritual warfare begins in your own minds taking every thought captive to obey Christ...

We are called to not only recognize authentic authority but to wield it well

## **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.gotquestions.org/you-will-know-them-by-their-fruit.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-discernment.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/critical-spirit.html>

## Authentic Authority

Text:

**You will know them by...**

### **Their master**

2Corinthians 10:7 ¶ **Look at what is before your eyes.** If anyone is confident that **he is Christ's**, let him remind himself that **just as he is Christ's, so also are we.**

*1 cor 4:1-5 (you will know them by their master - it was not his personal agenda that he served...)  
acts 19:11-17 (beware of self proclaimed teachers - position and power are not sufficient claims to authority - leadership is God ordained not self proclaimed ) (gal 1:11-24 Paul did not raise himself up to prominence acts 26:9-18 He knew his calling)*

### **Their mission**

2Corinthians 10:8 For even if I boast a little too much of **our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you**, I will not be ashamed.

*1 cor 8:1, 7-13; 10:23-24, 31-33; 14:1-5, 12, 17, 26 (you will know them by their mission - Phil for example that he was affectionate for them with the very affection of Christ)  
gal 4:17-20; 5:11-15; 6:13 (beware of discernment ministries whose only goal is to tear down - or to abuse)*

### **Their method**

2Corinthians 10:9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters.

2Corinthians 10:10 For they say, "**His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.**"

2Corinthians 10:11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present.

*1 cor 2:1-4 (you will know them by their method - truth is not about marketing and celebrity and image and hype - A second century tradition of Paul's physical description comes from Thessalonica in a book called Paul and Thekla. It says that he was bald and bow-legged, had bushy eyebrows and protruding eyes. Paul was not a physically attractive man)  
2 Tim 3:1-4:5 (beware of teachers reliant on pragmatism, ear ticklers and hype)*

### **Their measuring rod**

2Corinthians 10:12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are **commending themselves**. But when **they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another**, they are without understanding.

2Corinthians 10:13 ¶ But we will not boast beyond limits, but will **boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us**, to reach even to you.

2Corinthians 10:14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel of Christ.

2Corinthians 10:15 **We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others.** But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged,

2Corinthians 10:16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, **without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence.**

2Corinthians 10:17 "**Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**"

2Corinthians 10:18 **For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.**

*1 cor 3:1-15; 9:16-17 (you will know them by their measuring rod - comparison is the thief of joy and the crown of illegitimacy - every conference etc has prominent men take the stage who have excelled beyond their peers - not always bad but that doesn't mean its always good)  
lk 18:9-14 (beware of self righteous virtue signalers - in whatever form they take - even if every other church in the world was false and terrible it would not mean this one would be good - it is not a relative zero sum game)*