

## Proper Order of Authority

*Submitted by Elder Greg Williams*

**Definition:** The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

Only God has absolute authority.

God is:

- The Beginning and the Ending
- The First and the Last

We are all under authority, and at some point, we will be in a position of authority in our lives.

There is a proper order of authority!

- 1) God gave His Ten Commandments – see Genesis 20:1-17)
- 2) Parents (Family) give us our Family Values – see Ephesians 6:4)
- 3) Adults are an extension of our parent’s authority – see Hebrews 13:17)
- 4) Law Enforcement – Judges, police officers – are given the authority to enforce the law. (Concrete Authority) – see Romans 13:1-14

I grew up in a strict family. My parents expected us to obey the rules that they gave us without debate (no back talk). I rebelled in my teenage years, after the loss of my mother, and quit school and enlisted in the Navy. I immediately faced authority. I was again expected to do what I was told, without debate (no back talk). Other people’s lives depended on it.

After leaving the Navy, I rebelled again against authority, moving instead into a life of lawlessness. I then went to church and heard a message entitled “Sick of Being Sick” and I gave my life to God. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior! I was introduced to the **Ultimate Authority** and was born again to be taught of Father God! I learned that obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). I learned that even at the point of death, we all want to live. “...not my will, but thine, be done.” Luke 22:42

I worked for the first time with a clear understanding of authority. No one has authority unless it is given to them from God. (see Matthew 8:9)

I worked at Sears & Roebuck, and the Grand Trunk Railroad. On both jobs, I came to work on time, prepared to work, and to do what I was instructed to do (no back talk). That was my responsibility. I always sought out opportunities of advancement.

While I was working for Grand Trunk, I was given the opportunity to coach as a volunteer. Again, I came to work on time, prepared to work, and to do what I was instructed to do (no back talk). Again, I sought out opportunities to advance. I came to understand that because I was obedient to God's authority, I was in a position of authority. I was offered coaching position, after coaching position, ending in a Head coaching position at the very same school I defiantly left my senior year for the Navy. I ran from authority and Authority brought me home. (see Matthew 6:33 and Hebrews 11:6)