

Perspective – “Who’s the Boss, and Why?”

“Boss” Defined

Boss: “One who makes decisions or exercises authority.” [That’s all, nothing more is intended here.]

2 Words = 1

There are two words that summarize everything within the Bible. That is to say, the key concepts in the Bible are connected to, or have their foundation of meaning within the context of two words.

Already within the scriptures we have been introduced to both. You will find them addressed directly, or indirectly consistently within the Bible. They are like two unbreakable, glorious threads that go from the first scripture in Genesis to the last in Revelation.

Authority and Relationship are these two words. Who God is, and what He intends are found within the scripturally-based meaning of these two words. Their meaning, for our purposes, is discovered within the details of everything else within the Bible.

Though it’s early in this missive to jump ahead we’re going to take this idea to its final summarization. Primarily because it’s never too early to get this into our minds for contemplation.

The fullness and fulfillment of these two words, Authority and Relationship, are found in one word.

Jesus.

He alone is the Christ. The Son of God. The Son of man (humankind).

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” (John 1:1-4)
- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he

who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

- “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.’” (John 14:6,7)
- “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

There is no relationship that should matter more to us than our relationship with God. Jesus is the way for each of us to have an eternal relationship with God.

Before the words “way”, “truth”, and “life” there is imbedded a definite article; the word “the”. This is intended to eliminate any other way to have a relationship with God, an alternative to God’s Truth, or a concept of life that is different in any way.

This does not depend upon what we think. It doesn’t matter if everyone thinks something else is “true” and the scriptures are not. That does not change the eternal nature of God’s Truth. No “buts”. No “what ifs”. That’s correct, there are no alternatives.

Many of us don’t care for this exclusivity. We think it is too narrow in scope; that we should be able to find our own way, or pick our own way of entering a relationship with God. This doesn’t fit our idea of how God should operate.

In spite of all our self-awareness of our weaknesses, we still think we know what’s best for ourselves, and many of us don’t like someone else telling us we are wrong. Some of us are convinced we’ve been good enough to merit God’s acceptance without this limitation.

It’s easy enough to make a religion-based argument simply from the multitude of different religions by suggesting it doesn’t make sense that only one religion, out of all this rich diversity, is the single one that’s correct; Christianity. After all, when considering history, the people associated with Christianity are anything but shining examples of truth and righteousness.

We fail to consider that our understanding of God is misguided, and what we have chosen to believe is a mixture of lies crafted and refined during all but the earliest period of human history. By our own choices we have participated in perpetuating the barriers that blind us to God’s eternal Truth.

So, we resist adopting God’s perspective concerning the eternally glorious gift He has given to us through Jesus, His Son. Even though we can freely receive Jesus, the Life, God’s gift to us, we resist. We fail to see God as Perfect Love, and miss the Truth, which is that Jesus is the Truth. As a result we can’t understand just how misguided, and flat-out wrong we are about God’s Son, Jesus. No matter what we think Jesus really is the Way; one and only Way to be in relationship with God.

“Well I don’t like it.” What we like or don’t like doesn’t change even the tiniest thing about the eternal Truth of God.

This is not relative to any of our thoughts, or circumstances. It is eternally absolute. It's been the Truth since before the world was spoken into existence. It is the Truth now. It will be the Truth forever.

My abruptness, and repetition may seem rude or pointless, however, after listening to people trying to make God's eternal Truth into what they want for so long it's simple; it would be hard to repeat this enough. The temptation is to say, "sorry", but it's a lie to suggest in any way that God's eternal Truth needs some form of apology. If it did then it couldn't be the eternal Truth.

Defense?

From my perspective we should never feel that God needs us to defend the Truth. God doesn't need us to defend Him. All He wants is for us to state His Truth as His Holy Spirit leads us. Thus, we may explain it's meaning if we're very careful to follow the Holy Spirit during God-given opportunities to do so.

More importantly, however, is that under the leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit we can live out the Truth by our thoughts, words, and actions. Words share ideas and assist understanding. Actions, however, prove meaning and create understanding.

"But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So makeup your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute." (Luke 21: 12-15)

"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (James 2:26)

Before someone throws something at me allow me to add something. This does not mean we're not supposed to study the Bible, spend time with other followers of Christ, or anything else like that.

We should do these things in order to know God better continually, and live out His will more effectively. After all, we are now one in Christ with one another. Celebrate and live that fully.

Moreover, talking to God, sharing everything with Him at all times, and being obedient in everything is critical. Our knowing God, however, is not so we can defend Him. It's for us to receive His Love, return the Love He is as we Love Him back, and as we Love others as ourselves.

Sharing God's Truth with others is one of the ways God loves them with us, and through us. It is a part of loving others as we love ourselves. Being God's Love to others through obedient actions proves that Jesus is the Truth, and brings God's Love to the door step of their heart.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.'" (Revelation 3:20)

When we consider further this Truth of Jesus being the Way, the Truth, and the Life we need to understand something. Yes, here again. The Way, the Truth, and the Life are not a what, they're a Who. Even Jesus our Lord. "Hallelujah!"

So, please, consider staying away from any translation that changes "the" for something else. For instance, to translate this passage as "...a way, a truth, and a life..." misrepresents both the intent of Jesus, and mistranslates the text as intended by the writer. It is a deception that has nothing to do with God's eternal Truth. It is, in my discernment, a Satanic lie.

So, Who Is The Boss?

If we think of the "boss" as the one in charge we have a beginning point for understanding. We might accept "boss" as being the one who has the right to decide what is to be done, or the one who has the right to exercise authority. Some of us may not like the term "Boss" feeling that it is disparaging, or simply recalls a negative memory we, or those who came before us have experienced.

Jesus said definitively, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18)

Regardless of what word we may find acceptable there is only One Person who holds ultimate authority concerning everything; God: Father-Son-Holy Spirit. He's the only One Who has any rights concerning authority. We only have the right to obey. Actually, it's the gift of being able to obey God.

We may choose not to obey God, but that is not a "right" that we possess. It is a choice we can make. It is possible, as we well know, but in no way is it "okay" or acceptable for us to disobey God at any time.

What are we supposed to do about governments, policies, laws, and enforcement of those laws? There may be aspects of each of these things that are in alignment with God's Truth. That, however, does not make them the Truth, only Jesus is the Truth.

Don't these things have authority over us. The following is what Matthew 22:17-22 states:

"Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, 'Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin *used* for the poll-tax.' And they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.' And hearing *this*, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away."

Still, the question may remain for some of us, "What really is Caesar's, and what belongs to God?" Any all encompassing answer may be misleading. Many feel we are obligated to follow the laws of the government of the nation within which we reside. That seems reasonable to me. My caveat might be demands which directly go against what we know God wants us to do within our immediate circumstances.

An example of this is in Acts 5:24-32 where Peter and the other apostles said, "We must obey God rather than men." This, however, is not a catch-all for anything we decide we don't like about the various forms of government or laws of the nation within which we reside.

We must be very careful about what we think aligns or doesn't align with the scriptures as a whole. Care should also be taken when considering any ideas current followers of Christ purport to be God's leading for others. Acts 5 was a special circumstance. It's possible such circumstances will rarely be repeated except where severe persecution of the followers of Christ exists, or where the Laws and will of God are rejected.

Take a look at 1 Samuel 8. For the first time the nation of Israel demanded a king, instead of being satisfied with God as the Ruler of all of Israel. The people are warned about what will happen if they insist upon a king other than God.

Their sons will be taken for the king's servants and his army. They will be at the forefront of battles. The sons will be taken to make all the things for war. The daughters will be taken to serve the nation. A tenth of what they grow, and the livestock they own will be taken. These things and others are delineated. Then it is stated that the people will cry out to God about what's required of them, but God will not answer.

These issues still exist today. The world's way was for people to have a king. God's way is for God to be the King. The nation of Israel wanted to be like the rest of the world.

Those of us in the United States may declare that we have not succumbed to these weaknesses, and that we are one Nation under God. After all, we have no king, nor is there any single person in full control over us, so only God holds a position of full authority.

Is that true? It is not true because our money says so. Is God our King? We may be more similar to the world than aligned with what God desires than we think. It's worth pondering. Yet, others of us may have different issues that concern them. For me, governmentally, the U.S. is not a nation "under God".

Whose Authority?

Someone may say, "Hold on! Jesus did give authority to His twelve disciples. Look at Luke 9:1 "And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases." That is correct. It's what Luke 9:1 states.

Please remember, however, that Jesus was sending out His disciples before He had died on the cross, been buried, and arose from the grave. The only means for Him to equip His twelve followers for their journeys was to temporarily extend to them some authority that He alone possessed.

Perhaps most important is what Jesus said before He ascended into Heaven after He arose from the grave. Read it again. Matthew 28:18 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven, and on earth." Please note carefully the word "All". Not some, not only over spiritual things. No, "All" authority everywhere now is His. He in fact was and is that authority, because like other "things" Authority is not a what, it's a Who, and that Who is Jesus!

When we consider the activities of the disciples following the Pentecost event, when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, (Acts 2), thus entering their bodies and uniting with each of their person's, we see that the process changed.

With the Holy Spirit indwelling the disciples it was Jesus with His absolute authority that did His work in, through, and with the disciples. It is the same for all others who receive Jesus-Life.

They became Jesus-United participants, with Jesus actively bringing His work into the world through them. That's what He does in and through us even today. If we let Him.

- “to who God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27)
- “I pray that out of the riches of His glory, He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,” (Ephesians 3:16)
- “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.” (Romans 11:36)
- Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

We are to choose to obey and intentionally prepare ourselves for each day so the work of the Lord may be accomplished with and through us.

- “Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:11-17)
- “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)
- “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)
- “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.” (Colossians 2:6,7)
- “But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.” (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- “For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts

of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

How can these Scriptures from God, that were written by men in accordance with God’s will, be anything but wonderfully beautiful to us? Praise God, any one of these verses if taken seriously by us, will change our perspectives and the way we live, let alone all of them together.

Why Is This The Case?

Still some of us read them, and would say we believe them, but their true meaning gets lost in our effort to manage our circumstances as we choose. Thus, the results are weak or nothing at all.

Interestingly, we have the ability to agree whole-heartedly with every word, and then allocate their meaning to a hidden storage area within our hearts, which we think holds no real practical application within our lives. Rather surprisingly, each of us possesses the ability to believe two things diametrically opposed to one another without causing any internal conflict of note.

Who’s the boss? We could probably write a small or even large book on each of this chapter’s topics. It would be easy because God is infinite. We would simply need to be patient as God teaches us, and write it down. That doesn’t seem to me what He desires right now so one more point and we move on.

Why is it absolutely necessary that God always be in control?

More than two reasons, but we’ll consider two at this time. First, without His authority and specific leadership by the Holy Spirit we cannot receive the best He has for us, or that which He desires to give away through us.

He’s always trying to give us His best. Why? Because God Loves each of us without end. He knows that what He wants for us is always the best. That’s exactly what He gave to Adam, Eve, and all of creation.

When God gives us His best He is giving from Who He is as the One True and Perfect God. He wants to give that away to others through us, and with us. Why? Same reason. Because He Loves us so much.

The Lord God will never short-change us. He never keeps something from us that we need in order to know and live-out the best of Who He is as Father-Son-Holy Spirit: God. In fact, He never keeps anything from us at all. Any limitations are within us, and because of us.

Second, if it’s just up to us we will mess things up. The world does not need the personal or collective “good” we have to offer. It needs God’s best. That can only come from Him. God’s best is always what is truly Good.

It may come from Him through us as individuals or through some form of collaboration. We cannot provide God’s best all by ourselves. No matter how hard we try.

God's best can only come in and through us when He is in control. This comes through our relationship in Christ, as we are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit through our obedience.

One of the reasons we don't live out this great Truth is because we don't understand how amazingly wonderful God's best really is compared to anything we might think up.

The reason we don't understand God's best more completely is because we don't really understand God enough. The reason we don't understand God enough is because we have not invested the time and energy to get to know Him better and better each day.

Knowing God comes best by living out our oneness with Him, sharing everything with Him, and obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit. This means accepting and living within God's eternal authority while being in a perfect relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

There are other reasons why God must be absolutely in control, but perhaps it is best if we seek those understandings apart from this chapter. Perhaps some of us will choose to do this together with others so we all grow together?

"May the Lord's will be done", is my prayer.