

Biblical Principles Seen in Paul's Meeting with the Leaders of the Jerusalem Church

1. God shows no favoritism... Galatians 2:6
 - a. In bringing justice regarding people's social status. Deuteronomy 10:17-21
 - b. In saving people regarding their culture Acts 10:34
 - c. In bringing judgment upon people regarding their culture. Romans 2:11
 - d. In His expectations of submission and obedience leading to reward. Ephesians 6:5-9
* Colossians 3:25
 - e. In ranking authority of those he calls to proclaim His Word. Galatians 2:6
 - i. Authority emanates with God by His calling and His Word
 1. Big **A**postles - commissioned directly by Jesus
 - a. Delivered God's Word before the conclusion of the writing of the New Testament.
 - b. Paul, Peter, James, & John are all **A**postles
 - c. Had authority over other pastors
 - d. Big **A**postles had authority over other pastors
 - e. This **A**postleship was not transferable and is no longer needed.
 2. Present day pastors / elders / bishops / overseers
 - a. All equal in authority before God.
2. God calls people to reach different people groups with the Gospel. Galatians 2:7,8
3. The Gospel unites. Galatians 2:9

Galatians 2:6-10
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*** The Apostles were of greater authority than the other elders because they were delivering the very words of Jesus. The authority of the Apostles is not transferable. There are no Big A Apostles today. Therefore, the men of God called to serve as pastors / overseers / elders / bishops are all of equal authority within the churches that they serve.

4. What do we see in Paul that should be imitated?

Paul was sent by the Holy Spirit to bring about confirmation to the entire body of believers that justification before God is by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By bringing Titus with him, he is able to set forward a clear example that would be remembered beyond just words. If Titus is not compelled to circumcision by the counsel, then it must be made clear to all that circumcision, and with it the entire Mosaic Law, does not justify us before God.

What does it mean that God is not a respecter of persons?

Acts 10:34 - Jew and Gentile salvation

Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25 - this is social status and expectation of obedience and mutual submission

James chapter 2 - social status

Galatians 2:6 - This is about authority....I think. Paul was just as much an authority on the truth of the Gospel as these men. Because, he was commissioned by Jesus Christ.

They all taught the Word of God

Galatians 2:6-10

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In our day, this would apply that those called by God to serve as pastors, elders, bishops, overseers, do not exercise any authority over one another through rank, fame, outward ministry growth, formal education, experience, etc. in God's eyes. There are authority structures that are created by man that are not inherently wrong, but they are not inherently good either.

And on matters that are not outlined in God's Word, than authority can be submitted

All pastors receive their authority from God and what they speak is measured by the Word of God, not what other preachers say, even if those preachers are of higher education, It is the Word of God that is the authority and therefore

Big A apostles did have authority over other elders in the sense that they were speaking the revealed truth of God as eyewitnesses to events, or those who had been specifically taught by Jesus.

"Its particular meaning here is, that the authority of the apostles was not to be measured by their external rank, or by the measure of reputation which they had among men. If, therefore, it were to be admitted that he himself were not in circumstances of so much external honor as the other apostles, or that they were esteemed to be of more elevated rank than he was, still he did not admit that this gave them a claim to any higher authority. God was not influenced in His judgment by any such consideration; and Paul therefore claimed that all the apostles were in fact on a level in regard to their authority."