

Absolute Authority of Jesus

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1 The resurrection of Jesus Christ—celebrated this past Easter, is not just a well-known church doctrine, it is a declaration of *sovereignty* and *absolute authority*.

2 Polls say that Easter is the highest-attendance Sunday of the year, and that America has not entirely *rejected* Christianity—but it has *diluted* it for years.

3 An article on the Christian worldview said that many believe the greatest threat to the church is not outright atheism, but a deceptive doctrine that retains the *symbols* of faith, while quietly giving up its *substance*.

4 The average church attendant likes the seasonal, inspirational, and ceremonial messages; they like to hear about Jesus in stained glass churches.

5 They like the family traditions; and they cherish the affirmations of hope and love that are part of the holidays.

6 What many do *not* want is the risen Jesus with *absolute authority* over them.

7 The resurrection of Jesus is not just a comforting church doctrine; it is a declaration of *kingship* and *sovereignty*.

8 Jesus is not just *Savior* in *theory*—He is *Lord* in *practice*. This is where modern Christianity misses the mark.

9 A person can say “*He is risen*” on Sunday and still live by *self* on Monday.

10 Many are *informed* of the sacrifice but are not *transformed* by it.

11 There are 5 possible reasons why this is happening to the average Christian church today.

12 **1.** Many have inherited Christian *language* without experiencing Christian *conversion*. Jesus must be our Savior in *word* and in *deed*.

13 Many proclaimed Christians know the *vocabulary* of a Christian but have not been *changed* by the *power* of the Gospel.

14 Many are familiar with words like faith, the cross, grace, resurrection, and forgiveness—and may *agree* with key doctrines—but *agreeing* is not the same as *believing*.

15 The New Testament Bible does not teach that just *affirming* true facts about Jesus is what *saves* a person.

16 The question is not: Do you believe that Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave? But: Has the risen Christ conquered your *heart* and is living *within* you?

17 All too many *know* about Jesus but have not *surrendered* their heart to Him.

18 Being *near* the truth without being *transformed* by it has created a generation of people who can pass a quiz on Easter but still live as they always have on Monday.

19 The issue is: If the gospel has not *changed* you from **Dark to Different**; If it has not *changed* your desires; your habits; your obedience, and who or what you love, then you have *religion* and not *discipleship*.

20 **2.** Many professed Christians prioritize *decision* over *discipleship*. The general church today has been effective in getting attendants to respond *emotionally*, but *less*

effective in teaching them to walk *faithfully* in Christ.

21 It is easier to count *raised hands* in a congregation, than to inspire *true believers* to trust a risen Savior.

22 It is easier to *fill* a room with people, than to *fill* their *hearts* with the gospel.

23 It is easier to *compile* an Easter message than to convince people to *conduct* their life based on faith, forgiveness, and love.

24 The average church attendant does not understand the foundational truth of trust on God; Salvation by faith in Jesus; The true nature of God; and being born again.

25 The article went on to say that this misunderstanding happens when churches are *event-driven* but not *truth-driven*.

26 Too many attending churches have not been taught how to deny themselves; to take up the cross; to be renewed in heart and mind; and, to live under the *Absolute Authority* of the Lord Jesus.

27 It is a *culture problem* and a *discipleship deficit*. The result is that millions attend Easter services every *year* but still act like today’s culture every *day*.

28 **3.** The average church attendant has a hybrid-faith due to hearing a gospel message *one day* a week and being catechized [instructed] by the world *six days* a week.

29 The culture influences people for *many* hours, but the church speaks to them for *one* hour. Many hear a sermon on Sunday and then are influenced by the culture all week long.

30 Today’s society says: **1** Truth is what you think it is; **2** Feelings *guide* your decisions; **3** Identity is what you *say* it is.

31 **4** Marriage promises are *optional*;
5 Personal comfort is your *main* goal, and **6**
Morality is whatever *avoids* social criticism.
32 The Barna poll shows that this wrong
teaching is being widely accepted—where
Jesus is *kept*, but His authority is *edited*.
33 It is why many say *I believe in the*
resurrection of Jesus but living in a way that
contradicts Scripture.
34 If believers are not *in the Word* every
day; *in prayer often*; *in Christian community*
regularly; *hearing sound teaching* in church,
the culture will *shape* them by *default*.
35 No one *drifts* into holiness, but many *do*
drift into a nonspiritual mindset.
36 **4.** Many today want the *benefits* of
Christianity without the *cost* of discipleship.
37 People want hope, good feelings,
forgiveness, and eternal life—but not
repentance and *commitment* to the authority
of Jesus.
38 They want a Savior who *removes guilt*,
but not a Lord who *requires surrender*.
39 They want the resurrection for *inspira-*
tion, but not as an *interruption*—but if Jesus
rose from the dead, then He has a *right* to
say what we do with our *money*, our *body*,
our *relationships*, our *homes*, training our
children, and our *future*.
40 This is where *cultural Christianity*
fails—many accepting enough religion to *feel*
spiritual—but not enough to *be spiritual*.
41 It is why many think wrongly about sal-
vation, morality, and truth. They live as
though being a *good person* is what makes
them right with God.

42 The clear message of the gospel is that
salvation is only through faith in the Atonement
sacrifice of Jesus, and not through self-
improvement or outward religion.
43 **5.** High church attendance on holidays
just shows that *affection* for tradition is more
important than *devotion* to Christ.
44 The crowds at Easter are real, but
attendance does not mean *allegiance*. There
is nothing wrong with attending church at
Easter—and it may be the *one time* a person
hears of the resurrection of Jesus—but it can't
stop there.
45 *Attendance* and *awakening* are two very
different things.
46 A *crowded sanctuary* doesn't neces-
sarily mean a *surrendered people*—and hear-
ing the resurrection *story* is not the same as
trusting in resurrection *power*.
47 The church doesn't need more people *in*
the room—just more people walking *in the*
Truth of God's Word.
48 The resurrection of Jesus was never
meant to just be accepted *by word*—it was
meant to bring *change in heart*.
49 The risen Savior is to take us from ***Dark***
to Different by living *differently* from the
world and being a positive influence on any-
one around us.
50 The resurrection is *proof* that Christian-
ity is true due to all the *evidence* that Jesus is
alive today.
51 Because of that fact, every part of our
life—our *attitudes*; how we *treat* people; and
how we conduct our life in general, must be
fully obedient to His Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus is the ***Absolute Authority*** to which we
must bow.

52 If Jesus rose from the dead—truth is
not flexible; If He rose to life—sin is
not harmless.

53 If He is alive—repentance is not op-
tional; If He came forth from the tomb—
godly living is not legalism.

54 If the tomb is empty—then attending
church cannot just be on holidays; and If Je-
sus ***rose*** to life to give ***us*** new life—Christi-
anity should not just be a family tradition.

55 It is possible to be *near* the empty tomb
and still be *far* from the risen Savior.

56 *That* is the unfortunate state of today's
Christian church—but it does not have to stay
that way.

57 Churches may have been *filled* this past
Easter, but the greater question is whether our
hearts are *filled* with the *love of Christ* and
fully surrendered to the living God from this
day forward?

58 The *miracle of Easter* is not that many
still show up to *hear* about the resurrection of
Jesus, but the *miracle is* that the risen Savior
still has the *power to change hearts* and *save*
souls if we will listen, accept, and obey Him.

59 **Luke 6:46** “*Why do you call Me ‘Lord,*
Lord,’ and do not do what I say?’”

60 Churches do not need *bigger*
holiday crowds—they need more *committed*
true believers!



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