

The Question of Authority

Darcy Siggelkow

Questions: What is the most sensational, believable “clickbait” headline you have come across on the internet? How would you rate your skepticism towards “experts”?

As access to knowledge has expanded, we in the public have tended to confuse our ability to easily look something up online with possession of true expertise.

Bonnie Kristian in “Untrustworthy”

The fact of the matter is we cannot function without admitting the limits of our knowledge and trusting in the expertise of others.

Tom Nichols in “The Death of Expertise”

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-6

Some in the church either didn’t understand what Paul said or didn’t like what Paul said.

Questions: Do you tend towards being a “people-pleaser” or “self-pleaser”? What example can you give from your life?

When you rely on self-rationalizations you can justify any behavior.

Read Judges 17:6

The big question:

Who is going to be the authority in my life?

Reread 1 Corinthians 4:4-6; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Questions: What is Paul saying about authority in these verses? How does the idea of “testing our life’s work by fire” influence your view of authority?

The people of God recognize the Scriptures, not because the church creates the Scriptures, but because the Scriptures create the church.

Russell Moore

Question: Where does “pride” mentioned in verse 6 fit into and influence this area of authority?

One of the biggest challenges for the church today...is whether the Bible is in any sense authoritative at all.

Michael Bird

Questions: What is competing to have authority in your life? How much authority would you say you give the Scriptures? What needs to shift to adjust giving Jesus and Scripture a greater place of authority?

