

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
***Crisis to Renewal // Crisis of Authority***  
***Pastor Marcus Lane***  
***September 12th, 2021***

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** You can only eat one food for the rest of your life, what is it?

**Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Outline:**

- I. Authority Humbles Itself (v. 15-16)
  - a. Paul, who writes to the church in Ephesus, shows how authority humbles itself when he commits to active prayer and intercession for God's people.
  - b. Spiritual authority is lowering ourselves enough to empower the people around us.  
**Q: Why does Paul decide to pray for the church?**
- II. Authority Lifts Others Up (v. 17-19)
  - a. Paul prays that the church may be filled with wisdom and revelation in the hope for a greater understanding of God.
  - b. Authority in arrogance tends to withhold, while spiritual authority is used to give and serve.  
**Q: What does Paul specifically pray to God for?**
- III. Authority is Accountable to Jesus (v. 20-23)
  - a. Paul writes that ALL authority and power is given to God. As a result, all authority must answer to God in the end.
  - b. Jesus' life and death is the perfect example of spiritual authority as it sacrifices everything to the point of death for our own salvation.  
**Q: How does Jesus show us what spiritual authority looks like?**

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) How can you implement the way Paul uses authority in your own life?
- 2) Where are the places in your life that you can work to humble yourself in order to practice spiritual authority?
- 3) Do you find authority to be difficult to honor? How can you help yourself with the present struggle of authority in your life?
- 4) What are ways that you can empower the people in your own life?
- 5) Are there people in your life like Paul, who are in spiritual authority and who will pray for you? Who are those people around you?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Matthew 20:25-28 **Q: How are we called to be in authority?**
- Romans 12:10 **Q: Through what virtues can we use to help guide us in how to be in spiritual authority in order to serve?**

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious Father, you have sent your son Jesus as the perfect Lord and King over all things. You have placed all things over His perfect reign and rule, and You have done it all so that the world might come to know and believe in what He has done. And what He has done for us by coming in and, by taking on our flesh to bear our sin and be our Saviour on the cross. That He has triumphed over sin, death and the devil and His resurrection. And Lord You have also sent Your son Jesus into this world, that He might send us to be His people and to make His reign known. Lord, we pray all this in Your name, Amen