

Authority in the New Testament and the Letter to the Ephesians

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Authority: What's the question?

At the risk of repetition

There are 13 letters attributed to Paul in the
New Testament

7 are undisputedly to be by Paul himself

3 are “disputed” as to Pauline authorship

3 are very unlikely by Paul

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

*Arranged by size

in the canon

Ancient Debates

- Deception
- vs.
- Imitation

Ancient Debates



Which Manuscript?

- Mark 16:9-20

Ancient Debates

- The Canon
- There was no New Testament in the New Testament Period

Terminology

- *Undisputed letters*
- *Cephas*
- *Satan*
- *Parousia*
- *Disputed Letters*
- *Peter*
- *the Devil*
- *the Epiphaneia—the appearing*

Ancient Debates

- Clement of Alexandria
- Marcion of Sinope
- 2 Peter

Ancient and Modern Questions

- Paul himself as a controversial figure
- Paul begins Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians but not Philippians by calling himself an “apostle”
- Acts doesn’t call Paul an apostle, but instead a “chosen instrument.”

Differing Versions of Paul: Galatians 2

- **Galatians 2:11-14**
- **Paul Rebukes Peter at Antioch**
- 11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; ¹²for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. ¹³And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, 'If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?'

Paul and Controversy

James announces:

- **Acts 15:19-21**

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¹⁹Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled* and from blood. ²¹For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

Reading Paul

The End Times

1 Thessalonians 4-5: The LORD returns with a trumpet blast

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God.

Reading Paul

- Marriage
- 1 Corinthians 7—Get married only if you absolutely have to
- Ephesians 5:21—Be subject to one another

Reading Paul

- Visions of the churches or the church
- 1 Corinthians 12 Spiritual gifts and the body of Christ
- Ephesians 2:19-22

- **Ephesians 2:19-22**

- ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are *citizens with the saints* and also members of the *household of God*, ²⁰built upon the *foundation of the apostles and prophets*, with *Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone*.^{*} ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually^{*} into a dwelling-place for God.

- **The Christian Household**

- 21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- 22 Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. ²⁴Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. * ³¹‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ ³²This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. ³³Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

- **Children and Parents**

- 6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord,* for this is right. 2‘Honour your father and mother’—this is the first commandment with a promise: 3‘so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’
- 4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- **Slaves and Masters**

- 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; 6not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, 8knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.
- 9 And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

Adapting the Message to Changing Times

