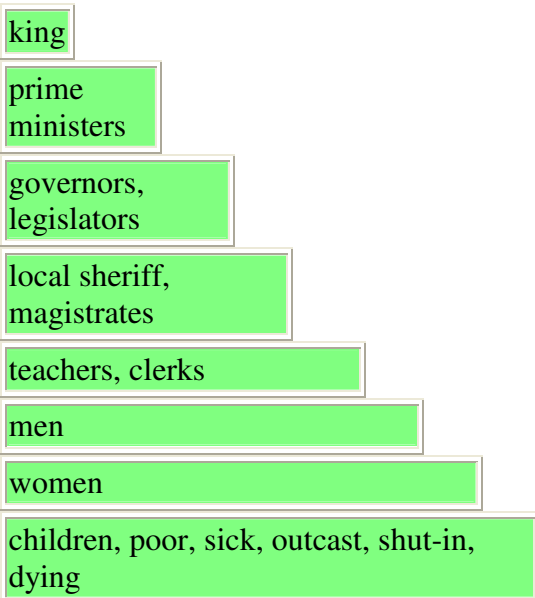


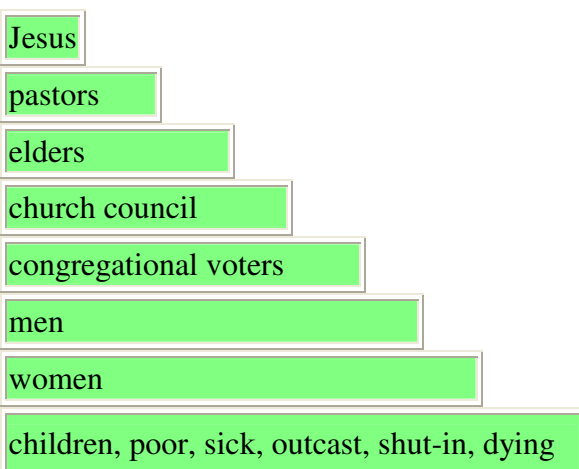
Authority and the Exercise of Power

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to Him, with her sons, and kneeling before Him she asked Him for something. And He said to her, "What do you want?" She said to Him, "Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your Kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will drink My cup, but to sit at My right hand and at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them" (Matthew 20:20-25).

The Secular Model of Power and the Exercise of Authority:



The Secular Model of Power and the Exercise of Authority Foisted Upon the Church:

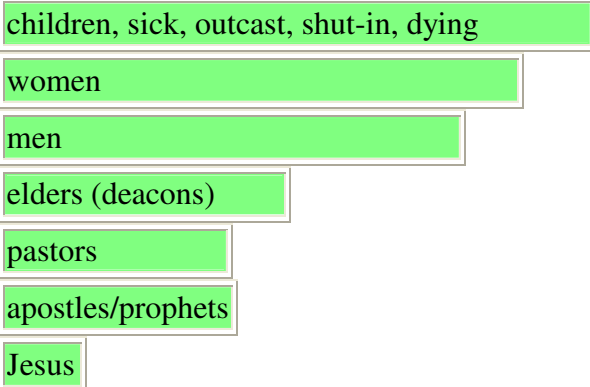


From Dorothy L. Sayers' The Man Born To Be King, *The Life of Christ in Twelve Dramatic Episodes*, 1943

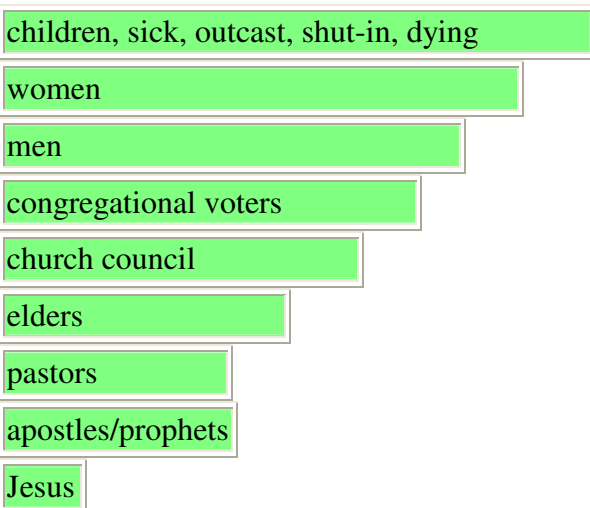
Herod the Great was no monstrous enemy of God: he was a soldier of fortune and a political genius -- a savage but capable autocrat, whose jealousy and ungovernable temper had involved him in a prolonged domestic wretchedness. Matthew the Publican was a contemptible little quisling official, fleecing his own countrymen in the service of the occupying power and enriching himself in the process, until something came to change his heart (though not, presumably, his social status or his pronunciation). Pontius Pilate was a provincial governor, with a very proper desire to carry out Imperial justice, but terrified (as better men than he have been before and since) of questions in the House, commissions of inquiry and what may be generically called "Whitehall". Caiaphas was the ecclesiastical politician, appointed, like one of Hitler's bishops, by a heathen government, expressly that he might collaborate with the New Order and see that the Church toed the line drawn by the State; we have seen something of Caiaphas lately. As for the Elders of the Synagogue, they are to be found on every Parish Council -- always highly respectable, often quarrelsome, and sometimes in a crucifying mood [page 7].

"It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

The Scriptural Model of Power and Exercise of Authority:



The Scriptural Model of Power and Exercise of Authority in practice at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Emmett, Idaho:



So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Therefore, consider the applications. Pastors have neither the authority, the right nor the call to be the Savior. To do so would be blasphemous. Church Council members have neither the authority, the right nor the call to descend to the level of pastors. To do so would be to be contentious. Women are not to descend to the level of being elders. To do so would be unscriptural and abusive. Children are not permitted to descend to the level of congregational voters. To do so would ignore the order of creation and would be abusive.