



A.R.T. CANON IV

Christian Pre-Law Foundations

*Abiding Relationship Theology Before
Religious Law, Structure, and Control*

TAVEAU D'ARCY

Note: This is a sample 3 chapters of 31



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Christian Pre-Law

Foundations

Abiding Relationship Theology
Before Religious Law, Structure, and
Control

By

Taveau D'Arcy



II Timothy 3:16–17

John 15:4–5 (KJV)

*“Abide in me, and I in you... for without me ye can
do nothing.”*

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Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

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Doctrinal Alignment

This work stands within historic, orthodox Christian theology.

Abiding Relationship Theology (A.R.T.) does not present a new gospel or replacement doctrine. It affirms the historic Christian faith as expressed in the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.

This volume upholds:

The Trinity

The full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ

Salvation by grace through faith in Christ

The authority of Holy Scripture

A.R.T. is a relational framework for examining biblical leadership and spiritual fruit. It does not add to or replace Scripture and rejects any teaching that would constitute “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6–9).

This volume addresses a question that quietly governs many crises in modern Christian leadership:

What existed before law, hierarchy, institutional authority, and fear entered faith?

Scripture answers clearly: relationship came first.

Before Sinai, priesthood, kingship, and religious systems, God governed humanity relationally. Authority was entrusted, not imposed. Obedience flowed from intimacy, not coercion. Law entered only after relationship fractured.

Canon IV does not reject law, structure, leadership, or discipline.

It restores them to their proper theological order.

Abiding Relationship Theology (A.R.T.) is not a new doctrine.

It is a recovery of the Church's original relational architecture.

To see a more complete beliefs statement, see the back of the A.R.T. Canon IV book.— Taveau D'Arcy

Canon IV is not:

- an attack on the Church
- deconstruction (it's more like collective reconstruction by gathering various clues from Christ and early church)
- partisan pro or against any persons: it's about deciphering the true Jesus
- Dogmatic, as this submitted as Selah to pause and think about then do your own Bible research.
- partisan pro or against and form of Christian worship, be they liturgical, denominational or charismatic, pentecostal, historical or current; nor against anyone attending a church or not, or against being an authority in a church, male, female, any race of sect, nor against persons choosing fellowship in a regular church, a private home or e-church worship, or never darken the door of any church.
- political
- weaponized or targeting other persons, choices
- racist or biased or sectarian: for Jesus was global and not a light skinned Caucasian, but from the Middle East
- against any known people groups or other religious faiths.
- divisive pro or against any pastors, ministers, leaders, human persons in Christ's global body be they recognized, world wide famous or not
- a rejection of leadership, governing authority or officially joining a church
- a psychological self-help book
- a rebellion manifesto
- a dismissal of holiness or order
- It does not teach:
 - that all authority is abusive
 - that accountability is unnecessary
 - that structure equals oppression
- It is not racist, gender biased, ageist or status driven

Canon IV insists authority is God-designed, but how authority is exercised reveals its source. It's a perspective and is Bible relationship, not party, not recruiting focused.

A.R.T. Definitions

A.R.T. — Abiding Relationship Theology

God first oversaw, governed directly, through relationship well before laws, required rules, and religious regulation. Today many people, leaders say these words impersonally as they are our inherited tradition, but sister Taveau D'Arcy Creative Leadership wants to remind us how each of these can cause suffering and human heart ache.

Example 1: “Governance”

Typical church use:

Governance = structure, leadership oversight, system.

A.R.T. Abiding Relationship Theology translation breaks it down: :

Governance means someone is responsible for the well-being of other human beings.

It is not machinery.

It is not a board chart.

It is people in real relationships:

- a father guiding a family
- a pastor caring for a flock
- elders praying over a church
- believers learning to work through disagreement

Governance means someone carries weight.

They make decisions that affect others.

Those others may agree.

They may disagree.

They may struggle.

But they are bound together in responsibility.

Governance is not about control.

It is about accountable care inside relationship.

That paints the picture.

“Authority”

Abstract:

Authority = right to rule. An office. A king, ruler, president.

A.R.T. Abiding Relationship Theology breaks it down:

The frail human authority is entrusted with the responsibility to direct, guard and guide, have the last say, potentially, over the life, soul, work, call, body of another human person.(which is a “human form of relationship.”)

It means:

- A human person someone is called to protect
- A human person someone is called to guide
- A human person someone is accountable before God for the well being of other live human persons, children to mature adults, themselves

Authority and position must not erase the humanity of the genuine people with whom it is involved.

It means humans are navigating life together:

They may not always agree.

They may need correction.

They may misunderstand each other.

But there is a bond:

A shared calling.

A shared faith.

A shared accountability before God.

The human leader in authority becomes distorted when the relationship factor and respect disappears and only the title, power, and position remains.

“Covenant”

Abstract:

Covenant = binding agreement.

A.R.T. Abiding Relationship Theology meaning:

A covenant is a committed relationship where both parties promise to abide by certain legalities, loyalties, and fidelities in various faith filled positions, boards clubs and ministries. They promise to abide by the tenets and limits of bonds of this “relationship agreement” as paid or volunteer side or main commitment, marriage, positions, faithfulness.

In Scripture, covenant is not paperwork.

It is promise, duty or obligation to commit to enduring relationship perseverance and loyalty even when things do not go well with the few or many persons.

Privately and personally it is the person’s choice to enter in. And it implies, means:

“I will remain committed to you.”

“Even when we struggle.”

“Even when correction is needed.”

“Even when emotions fluctuate.”

Covenant is not constant agreement.

It is committed belonging.

God’s covenant with His people does not mean they never fail. It means that He will never fail.

It means He remains faithful in relationship.

That paints the mental picture.

Fruit of Pure authority (Pastor, parent, prophet, office, director)

Pure genuine God-given authority flows from relationship through prayer, knowledge, ongoing Bible study, inward direction, and revelation by the

Spirit of truth (John 16:13).

“When the spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth. He won’t talk about Himself, He will talk about things to come” John 16:13 KJV

This direction, abiding and representing the methods and fruit of Christ is witnessed as the peaceable, non-biased fruit described in James 3:17. “the fruits of the wisdom that come from above”

“The wisdom from above is first of all pure, peaceable, easily entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy”
Pastor James, 1/2 brother of Jesus, Church of Jerusalem James 3:17 (KJV)

Abiding relationship, and words, advice, messages spoken will produce the James 3:17 peaceful fruit, not angst, accusation, worry, fear.

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind” (Paul 2 Timothy 1:7 KJV).

Correction occurs within relationship respect, humility, leader dignity, not attack, demeaning humiliation.

Uses of the word CORE

A.R.T. Theology uses the word “core” interchangeably for the word ‘subculture’ Actually we chose that to prepare for a Future Church and it’s rising ministry leadership. “Core” is often used online, by youthful persons who affiliate and fellowship based upon like their interests, and it is mostly for recreation or having fun. I use the term CORE thinking of a dedicated but busy, enthusiastic, like minded subculture)

A.R.T. CORE (Abiding Relationship Theology “Core” is a by product, the fruit of a genuine Jesus following tribe, group, family, church, community. It means that is respecting, not judgmental, not Bible thumping, attacking but rather it is generally accepting, other centered, a servant-leader, family-feel subculture in a church, business, leadership organization, fraternity, or community. It celebrates the many different kinds of people over money, church going, joining, titles, income and status. This Godly

contented subculture values persons over appearance, participation or funding, and looks out for the good of the young and the old.

Healthy A.R.T. core in a fellowship accepts people for who they are—made in God’s image—rather than their title, talent, income, persona, or status.

A.R.T. CORE fruit examples: Isaiah 1:18, *“Come let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, He will wash them white as snow. Though they be as crimson as blood, He will make them white as wool”*

James 3:17 (mentioned above) , Galatians 5:22–23. Pauls’ “fruit of the spirit” *God’s love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, meekness and self control”*

What is a CORE (A.R.T. General Use of Term)

A CORE is a human subculture operating within a pre-existing culture or nation. It is a modern, youthful online term describing fellowship, community, identity, hobbies, or shared interests. Some cores can be dark and harmful.

The Deep Contrast is Transaction CORE

Transaction CORE operates to get a payoff. It bears the fruit of self-centeredness, barter, and leverage, places gain more value on impressing, attaining, receiving, acquiring or showing off over genuine relationships with human persons. For human persons are not viewed as important. And this is a field where ambition, also narcissists and territorial churches, dominating cults thrive. Yet, it’s subtle and pleasant also beguiling and much of happy society accepts it.

Authority operates by pressure, law, barter, pleasing and is an exchange rather than a healthy relationship:

“I respect you and accept you but only when, if you comply.”

“I love and respect you as long as you do everything my way.”

Example of Transaction CORE thinking :

“When the cat’s away, the mice will play.”

Common markers include fear-based obedience, performance pressure, and conditional belonging.

Authority (Biblical)

Stewardship, not ownership.

Given to protect life, cultivate growth, and preserve dignity.

Submission (Biblical)

Relational cooperation, not forced compliance.

It assumes moral agency and access to God.

Fruit as the Test

Authority is measured by its fruit (James 3:17): peaceable, gentle, easily entreated, full of mercy and good fruit, without partiality and without hypocrisy. This aligns with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23—love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, meekness, and temperance (self-government)—rather than mere claims. How to Read Canon IV

Canon IV speaks to:

the wise and the curious

many scholars and trained ministers

pastors and leaders

every person who has an ear to hear

This book may also comfort ordinary people and many wounded believers, including ministers, Bible teachers, ordained ministers, and leaders.

Each section:

begins with Scripture

interprets Scripture in context

applies Scripture relationally

This book is not written to win arguments.

It is written to restore discernment.

Read slowly.

Let Scripture speak before systems do. Author's Purpose

A.R.T. Canon IV exists to answer a simple but urgent question:

What does authority look like when relationship—not law, fear, or control—is the governing force?

This volume examines Scripture before, during, and beyond the rise of formal law and institutional religion, tracing how authority functions when relationship is honored—and how it collapses when it is replaced by transaction, accusation, or domination.

Canon IV is written for:

leaders who want to direct, steer and watch over, perceiver guide human
persons “chief Shepherd” without harming
believers recovering from spiritual abuse
teachers seeking Scripture that speaks honestly to trauma
readers longing for faith that preserves human dignity

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How to Read This Book

Each chapter follows a consistent pattern:

Full KJV Scripture first

Historical and relational context

Line-by-line theological exegesis

A.R.T. vs. Transaction CORE authority contrast

Modern application to church, family, leadership, and society

A clear, plain-language summary

This book is not rushed.

It is meant to be walked through.

It is for contemplation and A.R.T. intercession.

Canon IV Overview

Canon IV explores authority before law and what happens when authority shifts from relationship to transaction.

It traces:

Eden's relational authority

The Fall and relational fracture

The rise of transactional systems

God's preservation of relational leadership

Canon IV prepares the theological transition into later discussions of law, institutions, prophets, and Christ's restoration of relational authority.

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my parents,

Rev. M. Kimball Johnson Jr. and
Naomie (Nonie) Mitchell Simons Johnson,

in gratitude for their human compassion, understanding and discernment, also their happy hallowed fun home, also wisdom, and authentic respect for all people.

They parented mightily and graciously, and we Equal Opportunity Real Respect, servants of the Most High God. And I owe them the deep love of learning and attention to God's Holy Bible Word .

However, it was not their title, their education or their skills that taught me. It was how they lived their lives both in public and in private that made me want to get to know and understand both the Lord God, His Son, Jesus Christ.

I was raised in Ephesians 5:21, (*God centered marriage with the ministry office called contented couple as equal partners, teammates, friends, co-laborers*)) and was by grace granted to have each of them, and my entire extended family of non famous believers, employ God's strength to guard their minds, to watch their mouths, and practice selfless, other centered uncompromising merciful self government, and righteous respect to one and all.

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Chapter 1

How to Lead Like Jesus Without Hurting People

A.R.T. Authority vs. Transactional Authority

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Abiding Relationship: the Roots

Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.***

John 15:4–5 (KJV)

*“**Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, **except ye abide in me.** I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him**, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**”*

Fruits of Transactional Authority

2 Corinthians 1:24 (KJV)

“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.”

Matthew 20:25–28 (KJV)

“Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant;

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

I. EXEGETICAL FOUNDATIONS

“Dominion Over Your Faith”

Greek: **κυριεύω (kurieuō)**

Meaning:

- to rule as owner
- to control
- to exercise lordship

Paul rejects spiritual ownership over another person's faith.

He is not being polite.

He is drawing a boundary.

Faith belongs to a person's relationship with God, not to any human authority.

When someone attempts to control another person's faith, they step into a role Paul refused.

“Helpers”

Greek: **συνεργός (synergos)**

Meaning:

- co-worker
- partner
- one who works alongside

Biblical authority stands beside people, not over their conscience.

A helper strengthens your walk with God.

A helper does not replace your walk with God.

If a believer feels they must go through a person to reach God, something has shifted away from Scripture.

“For by faith ye stand”

Every believer stands before God by their own faith.

No human being can stand in another person's place before God.

People can encourage faith.
They cannot substitute for it.

2. “It Shall Not Be So Among You”

Jesus is not refining worldly power.
He is forbidding it among His followers.

Kingdom authority is not improved control.
It is a different nature entirely.

“Minister” and “Servant”

Greek: **διάκονος (diakonos)** — one who serves
Greek: **δοῦλος (doulos)** — one who gives himself for another’s good

Jesus defines authority as responsibility for the well-being of others.

A servant is accessible, not elevated beyond reach.

3. “Abide in Me”

Fruit comes from abiding, not pressure.

When abiding weakens, people begin to rely on:

- personality
- structure
- persuasion
- pressure

Abiding keeps authority relational.

Transaction replaces abiding with performance.

“Dominion Over Your Faith”

Greek: **κυριεύω (kurieuō)**

Meaning:

- to rule as owner
- to control
- to exercise lordship

Paul is saying something very strong here.

He is saying:

“I am not here to control your relationship with God.”

He refuses to act like he owns someone else’s spiritual life.

He refuses to position himself as the manager of another person’s conscience.

Faith is not something a leader governs *for* you.

Faith is your living relationship with Christ.

A pastor can guide you.

A teacher can explain Scripture.

A mature believer can warn you or correct you.

But no human being has the right to step between you and God as if your access to Christ must pass through them.

That is what “dominion over your faith” means in plain terms:

No leader owns your or your spiritual life, inner life, private personal life.

No reigning authority figure replaces your direct relationship with Jesus.

No Biblical office or person gives someone the right to control your inner life with God.

Saint Paul draws a boundary:

Spiritual authority may direct, suggest, pray regarding ,and act as a figure to model the Good Shepherd Christ.

They may impart new wisdom, ideas, even form groups to intercede and hear the Lord and in many ways, keep you safe and may protect.

It one or many may instruct.

But you must hear the Lord for yourself. And nobody should ever tell you buy you, apply pressure to get you to do whatever they want you to do. If they appear to view you, and many others, as their possession, that is big sign “control.”

Friend, you and I must be family feel, relationship respecting and other

God formed human person valuing. There are Christian ministries who demand that we “submit” to them, without any relationship, or us being an official church member.

This is a big time in the Christian faith to watch out for leadership use of false authority based on old time Levitical Legalism and many passed down traditions. I know about them well, as I have been in the deep grass roots, mainly at the local area, all of my ministry life.

One of the many purposes of my **Canon IV Christian Pre-Law Foundations** is due to ‘shepherding movement” and the gate-keeping and bearing false witness, without knowing person or confronting them.

These received their teaching and their call mainly from seeming to be similar descendants from Western European wise culture, that sent the early Settlers to the Colonies in the east.

Add this to Western TV and media and similar persons mentored in the East Coast more patriarchal and Caucasian Old Boy movement.

Note: This author is FOR the many of them, yet this is a future church warning, that mighty God is not going to put up with flamboyance, accusing, libelous ministry practices, using false teaching or dominating, manipulative, ego psychic false authority.

Jesus Christ, the very first church were not into big titles but prayer, seeking God’s ways, and respect for all in the fledgling ministry wide community, like this EORR Cross Body Unity movement founder.

It was ‘all relationship ‘ first, then then the order, but it was nothing like the ‘submission” rules or funding like we have now.

It was all about “relationship” with God first, through Messiah the Christ, an then the community. Note: Ephesians 4 as a Hebrews 10:25 office prototype.

Only later, after Jesus had ascended into heaven, did the religious rules and authoritarian hierarchy, funding start to come out. Along with big fancy titles.

I will address more on this often but later, however in this book we will note symptoms of this today, which have come down in prior Bible teaching many moves.

Also which started in the middle ages, the different important periods in history but again beginning and during the media age.

While this speaks to us right , we must address this fully for The Future Church which as already started, for persons who have never seen a genuine ministry, a Christian, a church who natural and the cross and priceless relationships top prioritizing. Nor any significant ministry , lay, media deep portrayals of Jesus Christ, other than sound bites, flash points, loud screaming, name calling and Bible beat downs.

WHO WAS (and still IS!) the *organic in the Bible* Messiah Christ? Do any of us know? Surely not. But we can go back and study and get real glimpses. Yet I won't try to pretend that I really "know it all" for sure, 100%, for no one really does, only Christ: but we can read, learn and attempt to grow.

Taveau D'Arcy has been 'sent' to discover this in ministry, to notice this, to comprehend and realize this, but also to have a pure hearted motive in assessing and evaluating strange global phenomena. Yet she has Bible based teaching and winsome pastor, worship, teacher, parental, good role models, as do many, for their remains "the godly remnant" and this book is also for them. Reason? To protect from being accused by the persons who've never met a Real Christian Disciple, pastor, prophet, trainer, minister, lay due.

And due to all of this I state:

"Father, forgive us all, for we know not what we do."

Also, I forgive all, and I need to. And I hold no bitter grudges, but I ladylike warn them as an office prophet, eagle amongst the many eagles: to behave.

Here's to a Future Church in light of the many varied conformist, tattle tale, gossip ministries, usually who are under gate-keeping LP Submission. My nightmare: but not the usual skilled white persons, it's the dark spirit, which I now respectfully go after and duly warn, not just hers, but many atypical hims.

Freedom In Christ yet a warning verse First Church Paul to the many diverse Philippians 2:12 KJV

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”

Don't let any body control you, own you or possess us. Know your Bible 2 Timothy 3:1-8; 1 Timothy 6:5

“The IT is written” versus the “IF It's Written”

My coined phrase.

Finding Many Fractured Ministry Fellowships Birthed The A.R.T. CANON Series

And inspired deep dive into First Church VS Now Traditions and big foundations, hence what we name the **A.R.T. CORE VS TRANSACTION CORE In Biased Ministry**

Key point: When impressive, high called, elder leadership shifts from helping your faith to controlling your faith, to monitoring your every life move, plus managing your ideas, it's a sign something has moved away from Biblical First Church Christianity.

II. CHRISTLIKE LEADERSHIP IS RELATIONAL

Jesus lived His life with ordinary people.

He did not position Himself as above them as an unapproachable, avoidant, and untouchable leadership authority figure.

Instead He walked among them.

Christ:

- walked with people
- sat and ate with people
- talked with people
- answered honest questions
- corrected gently
- restored after failure

Perspective: Savior Jesus lived among people, not above them.

That truly matters.

Authority, in Jesus' model, was not self protective distance. "gauging proximity"

It was Him present among them, (Acts 10:38) and later, He sent the Gift of His presence.

Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us***

"The God who is there." (title of the long ago Book by Francis Schaeffer)

He did not build a fan base.

He formed disciples.

A fan watches.

A disciple walks closely and learns.

Jesus did not cultivate dependency on Himself as a personality.

He continually directed people to the Father.

When He taught them to pray, He said:

"Our Father..."

He did not say, "Pray through Me as your gatekeeper."

That distinction protects believers from spiritual control.

What Jesus Did Not Do

This is equally important.

Jesus did not:

- demand personal loyalty above loyalty to God
- create a spiritual rank system that locked people into hierarchy
- silence sincere questions
- threaten people into obedience
- build a movement based on fear
- use His authority to secure image

He said, “*Follow Me.*”

Following is voluntary. It’s a form of trust. And the sense of trust is in a person in human form (hence A.R.T. relationship)

Control is enforced compliance, but another human real person. .

Yet those two are not the same.

Healthy following flows builds and preserved, protects humans in diverse relationships.

Human control flows from insecurity and lack of human value and Jesus love and mostly harms, possesses, dominates, defiles persons (relationship)

If leadership requires fear to maintain loyalty, it has already shifted away from Christ’s pattern.

Jesus never replaced the Father.

He revealed the Father.

Any authority that replaces a believer’s direct relationship with God is no longer functioning in the New Testament pattern.

III. MODERN DISTORTIONS

Authority does not usually collapse overnight.

It drifts.

It drifts when it gets in the big grind. Slowly it becomes:

- image-driven
- personality-centered
- rank-focused
- loyalty-tested
- fear-maintained

Each of these shifts authority away from relationship and toward transaction.

When leadership becomes image-driven, appearance begins to matter more than fruit. (outer court employs persona rather than deep inside guards values)

When leadership becomes personality-centered, people attach to charisma rather than to Christ.

When rank becomes the focus, titles replace trust.

When loyalty tests replace discernment, agreement becomes more important than spiritual growth.

When fear maintains order, people comply outwardly but hide inwardly.

That is not New Testament leadership.

That is insecurity wearing religious language.

Pressure-based loyalty systems are not faith.

Faith grows in freedom.

Control grows in blind, economic driven, goal based fear.

Christlike authority never compete or silences, it regards all as peers until proven otherwise. Christ never sought numbers, He noticed the hungry people tested humans souls, and wisely related, respected and authentically valued until they understood that He should be trusted.

It's like today.

If someone attempts to weaken your confidence and your direct relationship with Jesus and His Bible Word, in order to strengthen your loyalty to themselves, something has shifted. It's relationship disrespect and a form of warning.

That is not The Good Shepherd.

That is a ministry and person positioning.

IV. A.R.T. AUTHORITY

A.R.T. authority flows from abiding relationship with Christ.

It is not passive. It is not weak.

It is not permissive.

It is anchored. It is full.

A.R.T. authority:

- genuinely respects and protects relationship
- it respects conscience
- it values maturity
- it Galatians 6:1 corrects with dignity
- It has no fear and releases people into their call, encourages them to grow

Relationship based ministers does not weaponize Scripture to control behavior. They research the Word of God and abide in it's respecting fruit.

A.R.T leaders respect conscience which means leaders recognize that every believer stands before God personally. And will answer to Him one day.

That means that each one will make mistakes but with good training, asking about it, they can grow in their Bible right to hear God for each of themselves. (Philippians 1 2:12)

To value maturity means leaders are not threatened by another person's growth.

To correct with dignity means confrontation does not disrespect or humiliate.

To release people into growth means leaders are not building dependence on themselves.

A.R.T. authority remembers something foundational:

People belong to God.

They are not assets.

They are not leverage.

They are not ministry inventory.

They are sons and daughters of the Father.

When authority remembers that, it remains clean.

V. TRANSACTIONAL AUTHORITY

Transactional authority operates differently.

It seeks outcome before relationship.

It often sounds spiritual, but its inner structure is exchange-based.

It functions like this:

“I accept you if you comply.”

“I affirm you as long as you align.”

“I trust you if you strengthen my position.”

This is not always spoken aloud.

But it is often felt.

Transactional authority:

- pressures conformity
- equates loyalty with spirituality
- values image over people
- protects position first
- creates subtle dependence

Dependence is not the same as discipleship.

Discipleship trains you to walk with God.

Dependence trains you to lean on the top leader, elder which is a personality. Psalm 121

Transactional authority gathers followers.

A.R.T. authority matures believers.

The fruit reveals the difference.

One more issue that must be addressed plainly.

Point

People who attend ministry are not property.

Not women.

Not men.

Not the young.

Not our volunteers.

Not the gifted.

Not the single.

Not the weak and frail.

God called genuine Bible office spiritual authority is a form of mature “people and relationship” stewardship — not ownership.

When ministry titles begin to create big boss, elite entitlement, drift has manifested into the flesh. Arrogance and error birth distortion of Christian family and use of accusation, true and false authority populate the many churches, but the fear of the Lord remnant often perceives the “relationship value” has morphed into “transaction” (means what we can get from it)

Hence Abiding Relationship Theology and many other A.R.T. concept books, which are also going to be on on the Abiding Relationship Theology.com pdf book store and Amazon, Kindle, and more.

Prime Examples of Distorted Fellowship Relationship

The sons of Eli treated what belonged to God — and the women who served — as if both were theirs (1 Samuel 2:22). That was not strength. It was ownership thinking.

No pastor owns people.

No prophet owns people.

No bishop owns people.

God's people belong to Christ.

This book is not written against the Church.

It is written so it, we, I myself, may grow up.

Chapter 2

Eden CORE Culture Before the Adamic Fall

Orientation and Cultural Frame:

Authority Before Law

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Pre-Moses giving of Old Testament Law

Chapter Orientation — Cultural Framework

How authority functioned through relationship, not control.

This chapter establishes the cultural environment of Eden before sin and before law. It explains how authority, obedience, trust, and responsibility functioned relationally—before legal systems, punishment, or institutional governance were needed.

The purpose of this chapter is not to perform full theological exegesis, but to describe the relational culture in which God's authority originally operated.

1. The Foundational Question

Every system of Christian authority ultimately answers one question:

Did God design faith to be governed first by rules, religious laws, or first by relationship?

Modern theology often begins at Sinai.

Scripture begins in Eden.

Before there is Torah, before priesthood, before covenantal legislation, and before institutional structure, God establishes direct relational governance with humanity.

“And the LORD God commanded the man...” (Genesis 2:16, KJV)

This single sentence is one of the most theologically important lines in all of Scripture. It demonstrates that moral authority exists before codified law,

and that divine instruction originally flows through relationship rather than regulation.

2. The Nature of God's First Command

The Hebrew verb used here is:

נָצַח (tsāvāh) — *to charge, appoint, entrust.*

This is not the language of coercion. It is the language of stewardship. God is not issuing legislation; He is entrusting responsibility.

The command is not abstract. It is relational, personal, and direct.

Adam does not receive a legal code.

He receives the word of God.

This establishes a critical A.R.T. principle:

Authority is relational before it is institutional.

3. Relationship as the First Government

In Genesis 1–2, several realities exist without law:

- moral clarity
- accountability
- responsibility
- authority
- obedience
- consequence

What does not yet exist?

- a priesthood
- a sacrificial system
- written law
- judicial structure

Yet righteousness functions fully because relationship with God is unbroken.

This demonstrates that law is not the foundation of morality.
Relationship is.

Paul later confirms this:

“Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions.”
(Galatians 3:19, KJV)

Law is a response to fracture, not God’s original design.

4. Order of Righteousness, Worthy Authority, and Relationship

Genesis 2:16–17 precedes the formation of Eve (Gen. 2:21–22). This is not a statement of superiority or lesser value, but a simple order of preparation for future relationships and responsibility.

It also provides a prototype for New Testament mutual submission (Ephesians 5:21), respectful deferring, and shared life in Christ within marriage, family fellowship, and Christian community.

Adam is head of home in order of responsibility, but not a slave driver. He is not to view his wife as property, servant, or subordinate labor.

Author’s point: Adam was formed from dust; the woman was formed from Adam’s side, sharing the same human substance. This reflects equality in value, calling, identity, and righteous collaboration.

Leadership in Scripture always carries heavier moral weight, not higher personal value.

This is why later Scripture consistently corrects leaders more severely than followers (James 3:1).

A.R.T. insight:

Responsibility and caring relationship precede healthy, safe authority.

5. Edenic Authority vs. Post-Fall Power

In Eden, authority is exercised through:

- obedience
- trust
- transparency
- relational alignment

There is no spiritual pressure, no domination, no fear, no coercion, and no surveillance.

Power does not yet exist.

Power appears when relationship is lost.

This is why Genesis 3 introduces the language of hiding, fear, and control — but Genesis 1–2 does not.

6. Theological Implications for Leadership

All later ministry failures trace back to this original distortion:

When relationship with God is no longer primary, authority becomes positional, and leadership becomes transactional.

Systems begin to replace intimacy.

Control replaces trust.

Performance replaces obedience.

Image replaces integrity.

This is not modern.

It is Adamic.

7. Christ as the Restoration of Edenic Governance

Governance (he, she governing) means the true authority which is leadership oversight of few or many human relationships in a group.

A.R.T./Cross Body Unity emphasizes equal opportunity and real respect for each human made in God's image. Relationships are to be guided by love and Spirit-directed accountability, as seen when Christ cleansed the temple and when God held Adam accountable in Genesis 3.

Jesus does not introduce a new religion. He fulfilled and modeled the old one but without accusation, and rules conscious bias or law. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy about the Messiah in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:33 (KJV)

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

The First Church Author of Hebrews shares this about Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 8:10 (KJV)

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

.However all of this depends upon the person “overcoming” living the life, not just talking the talk and growing up to depend more upon the Lord God more than themselves. To take up their cross.

“The Son can do nothing of himself...” (John 5:19, KJV)

This is Edenic leadership: authority flowing from abiding relationship.

John 15’s μένω (menō) — abide — is not mystical abstraction. It is functional governance.

Christ governs by union, not by force.

8. Chapter Conclusion

Genesis 2 establishes the theological bedrock of A.R.T.:

- God governs through relationship
- Authority is entrusted, not imposed

- Obedience flows from intimacy
- Law is not primary — relationship is

Everything that follows in Scripture must be interpreted through this lens.

Where relationship abides, law serves.

Where relationship fractures, law dominates.

This is the beginning of all theology.

Chapter 3

Eden A.R.T. Relational Authority Before the Need for Law

Why trust, presence, and shared responsibility governed life before accusation

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The Fall did not immediately produce systems, hierarchies, or institutions.

It first produced, lust, superior pride plus fear, shame, and many—both big and small—relationship fractures.

1 John 2:16 (KJV)

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Cain and Abel show what happens next: identity seeks worth apart from relationship, and authority becomes transactional before it becomes institutional.

Authority existed before sin, and it was relational, not regulatory. Hence, no rules or laws.

God governed humanity through presence, trust, and shared responsibility—not rules.

Before anyone sinned, God was already leading.

But He wasn't controlling people with rules.

He walked with them. He spoke with them. He trusted them.

Authority came first. Then misbehavior. Thus, the Law came later.

God's original leadership model was relationship, not enforcement.

Genesis 1:26–28 (KJV)

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea...

27 So God created man in his own image... male and female created he

them.

28 And God blessed them...

Genesis 2:7 (KJV)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:15–17 (KJV)

15 And the LORD God took the man...

16 And the LORD God commanded the man...

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

One Line Summary

Before law, priesthood, or institutions, God governed humanity through direct relational presence and entrusted shared stewardship to man and woman.

Relationship Narrative: Human Story

In Eden, God did not rule from a distant throne with priests, kings, or systems.

He walked with Adam and Eve, spoke with them, and shared His creation with them. And they loved Him and responded directly to Him and obeyed.

Adam was not born into a hierarchy or a religious institution.

He was born into a relationship with God and later on related, became one, with Eve.

God formed Adam with His own hands and breathed life into him. This is intimate, parental, and personal.

Eve was formed as a companion, not a subordinate—someone to walk with Adam in shared life and stewardship.

Back then Eternal God was able to trust them.

He gave them the garden, the animals, the earth itself, and said, “Have dominion.”

This was not domination over each other, but shared responsibility with God.

In Eden, authority was family-like, conversational, relational, and gentle. There were no sermons, no institutions, no titles, and no submission hierarchies.

There was God, humans, and daily relational life.

A.R.T. Centric “Core” VS Transaction Centric “Core” Analysis

(In modern-day meaning, more modern day, youth culture basic terms, we use the word “core” when referring to a “subculture existing in prior subculture” be it secular or in Christian senior ministry. There are many active “core” subcultures in the United States today and many more online, even on the dark web.

A.R.T. Pattern in Eden

- God present, walking with humans
- Humans trusted as co-stewards
- Authority shared between male and female
- Work as relationship with creation
- Commands given in relational trust

Transaction CORE Contrast (Not Yet Present)

- No power hierarchies
- No fear-based obedience systems
- No religious institutions
- No transactional performance identity

Eden shows God’s original authority model: relationship first, structure second.

Hebrew Word Studies

Genesis 1:26 — “Image”

תְּצַלֵּם (tselem)

- Meaning: image, likeness, representative
- Theological meaning: Humans reflect God relationally, not mechanically.

Genesis 2:7 — “Breathed”

נָפַח (naphach)

- Meaning: to breathe into, to animate personally
- God gave life through intimate contact, not distant command.

Genesis 2:15 — “Keep”

שָׁמַר (shamar)

- Meaning: guard, protect, care for
- Adam’s authority was caretaking, not controlling.

Genesis 2:15 — “Dress”

עָבַד (avad)

- Meaning: serve, cultivate, work with
- Work was relational partnership with creation.

Christian Father’s Heart Summary

Eden teaches that God never designed authority to be cold, legalistic, or dominating.

He designed leadership as family stewardship, shared responsibility, and loving presence, a family team.

Many believers think religion began with rules.

Scripture shows it began with walking with God in the garden.

Easy Summary

In the beginning, God walked with people like a father walking with his children.

He trusted Adam and Eve to take care of the world together.

There were no churches, pastors, or rules yet—just relationship with God.

This is how God wanted authority to work: loving, close, and shared.

Adam and Eve: Partnership, Trust, and the Seed of Transaction

Genesis 2:18–24 (KJV)

18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone...

19–24 (passage continues)

Easy Summary

God created Eve as Adam's equal companion and partner in stewardship, establishing relational authority as shared life and mutual belonging.

Relationship Narrative: A Human Story

God looked at Adam and said something surprising:

"It is not good that the man should be alone."

This means even in a perfect world, relationship was necessary.

Adam walked with God, named animals, and cared for creation—but something was missing.

He needed a person like himself, someone to talk with, work with, and love.

So God created Eve from Adam's own body.

Adam's first words about Eve were joyful, poetic, and relational.

They were not introduced as boss and employee, priest and subject, or ruler and follower.

They were introduced as partners in life.

God brought Eve to Adam like a father bringing a bride to a son—family language, not hierarchy language.

Their authority was together—over the garden, over animals, over life.

Why Eden Prior to Sin Must Be Studied as God Authority

Eden is not merely the story of beginnings.

It is the only biblical example of authority functioning without law, fear, accusation, or coercion.

Before sin entered:

- no courts
- no punishments
- no enforcement structures
- no surveillance

Authority existed—but it functioned relationally, not transactionally.

Canon IV requires Eden to be understood this way, because every later authority system is a reaction to Eden's loss.

God's Global, Direct, Personal Authority Style: Relationship First

God does not rule through:

- domination
- threat
- extraction

He governs through:

- presence
- blessing
- shared purpose

A.R.T. principle:

God's First Organic True Authority flowed from a connected back and forth relationship, not through religious behavior or pressure and /or rank.

Without Separation and Division, Hence No Denomination

הָרָדָה (radah) — dominion

Means responsible stewardship under God.

No harm.

No coercion.

No mean attitudes of subservient Christian leaders, followers or community.

Dominion in Pre Sin Garden of Eden was intrinsically protective, blessed, every fruitful and benevolent, also sustaining and re-generative It was not form, formula or predatory.

This is A.R.T. (Abiding Relationship Theology) pure, Holy Spirit lead, personal self government and servant leader purest form or authority.

Work Without Toil, Obedience without Fear

Work requires human participation. (even in the day of robots, a human being is expected to design it, oversee it and correct it, improve it)

Adam was related with as well as trusted. He was self managed, for their was no sin, no willful display of human ego.

God gave Adam and Eve broad freedom and just one boundary “You may have everything on the planet to eat. Just do not pick and eat the fruit of that one tree.”

Law is unnecessary if a relationship restrains it's own behavior.

Authority And Gender

Authority is not gendered in Eden. Everything was perfect, no broken, torn apart families, unjust abuse, or bruised minds and soles. It was all fully sound and grand, God's image-bearing First Couple, the man Adam and woman Eve had duties and responsibilities which kept them interested, busy and exploring and they were God centered fun , co-laborers, teammates which fit together like hand and glove.

Domination came, but later, as per human's choices. Yet was designed by the Lord as His intention, yet He had give each person the freedom of choice, like He does now.

Disruption, fracture and dysfunctional fragmentation of sent relationships was not intended to be a part of His Plan. And would have gone on forever and ever had not choices made my humans come into play.

So it is now, also. Wars, rivalries, fighting, attack, each done by a human who forgot about the Lord.

fruit nor the intention of divine creation order; it was, yet we still feel evil fallout of the human fall and we each more and more contribute to that, apart from realizing and understanding the depth of Jesus Christ in eternal relationship. So this is why Sister T is writing to remind us all of True Perspective. Yet it's each persons choice.

But this fallout keeps ongoing after the Fall and now it's on media, in the neighborhood or around the block. And in church.

Remember: It human nature kicking in and there is Hope and Answer in the saving name of Christ.

Key: Relationship As the Safeguard

No authority is meant to operate alone. (it blossoms and take strategic effect in the community, family, tribe, nation)

Quality, Sound Relationship forms protective authority and prevents abuse.

Why Religious Law Was not needed in the first Garden

Law is remedial, not original.

Real Respect, Above Board Honor, and Human Trust governed behavior. God's calm, peaceful presence related with human tender, open human conscience.

A Modern Application

When leaders say authority requires fear or surveillance, they reveal relational failure.

Eden shows authority can be safe and gentle.

Transactional systems are post-Eden inventions.

Garden Fall Fruit: The Pride of Life :

Eden reveals God's original authority design: relationship along with God's ministering, guiding, protective ministering presence, shared stewardship, mutual partnership, and daily companionship.

Law, priesthood, and institutions came later as corrective measures after relational rupture.

Abiding Relationship Theology originally (organically) begins being observed in Genesis Eden, where authority is rooted in walking with God rather than obeying human rules, forms and specialized distant systems.

Transaction-CORE and the usual troubled 'big I' Identity and authority emerge only after fear and shame "the pride of life and the lust for other things" enter human relationships.

This is key to understanding Life and Human Problems

1 John 2:16 (KJV)

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Quick clarity

“Pride of life” here refers to:

- boasting in status
- trusting in possessions or position
- self-exaltation apart from God
- identity rooted in what one has or appears to be

Greek: ἀλαζονεία τοῦ βίου (*alazoneia tou biou*)

Meaning: arrogant display of one’s life, resources, or importance.

It contrasts with humble dependence on God.

1) Old Testament Parallels to “Pride of Life”

Genesis 3:6 (KJV)

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise...”

This verse shows the same three categories as 1 John 2:16:

I John 2:26 *“lust of the flesh”*

Genesis 3:6 *“good for food”*

I John 2:16 *“lust of the eyes”*

Genesis 3:6 *“pleasant to the eyes”*

I John 2:16 *“pride of life”*

Genesis 3:6 *“desired to make one wise”*

The pride of life appears as the desire for self-elevation, willful determination, ambition even blessed wise achievement — apart from

trusting God.

Psalm 127:1 (KJV)

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor labor in vain...”

Proverbs 16:18 (KJV)

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Pride is not confidence here.

It is self-exaltation that ignores dependence on God.

Daniel 4:30–31 (KJV)

“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built... by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?”

Nebuchadnezzar boasts in his achievements and status.

Judgment follows immediately.

This is pride of life in political and cultural form.

2) A.R.T. VS Transactional Human Persons, Christians

Insight

1 John 2:16 (KJV)

“...the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Greek Insight

ἀλαζονεία (*alazoneia*)

Meaning:

- boastful arrogance
- pretentious display
- confidence in self-importance

βίος (*bios*)

Meaning:

- one's livelihood

- possessions
- social standing
- outward life

So “pride of life” = boasting in one’s status, human strength, deeds, strength, values, resources, or image,etc.

A.R.T. Perspective

A.R.T. identity:

- rooted in belonging to God
- secure in relationship
- not driven by comparison
- not inflated by status

Transactional identity:

- built on image
- maintained by comparison
- dependent on recognition
- threatened by others’ success

Pride of life grows where identity detaches from relationship with God.

Leadership Implication

When leaders:

- emphasize titles
- highlight platforms
- measure worth by influence
- guard image at all costs

They are vulnerable to pride of life.

A.R.T. leadership rests in calling.

Transactional leadership rests in appearance.

3) How It Fit's Eden and the Fall"

Genesis 3:4–5 (KJV)

"Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that... ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

The serpent tempts with pride of life:

"You can rise higher."

"You can know like God."

"You don't need dependence."

This is autonomy over relationship.

Eden Contrast

Before the Fall:

- identity came from being with God
- worth came from being created by God
- authority came from stewardship under God

After the Fall:

- identity sought independence
- worth sought elevation
- authority sought control

Pride of life is the desire to rise without abiding.

Theological Insight

Pride of life is not simply haughty pride, ambitious human ego.

It is self-exaltation apart from God.

It replaces:

relationship → with self-definition

trust → with control

abiding → with asserting

Real Life Summary

Pride of life is trusting who you are yet without God.

It shows up when people feel important because of:

- status
- knowledge
- influence
- possessions

Eden shows us the cure:

People were secure because they walked with God.

When someone knows they belong to God, they do not need to prove their importance.

Relationship with God quiets pride.

Distance from God feeds it. That is why A.R.T. always returns to abiding relationship.

Footnotes

1. Gen. 1:26–27 (KJV)
2. Gen. 2:15 (KJV)
3. Gen. 2:16–17 (KJV)
4. John 5:19 (KJV)
5. Gen. 2:21–22 (KJV)
6. James 3:1 (KJV)

Something this week...More to come.

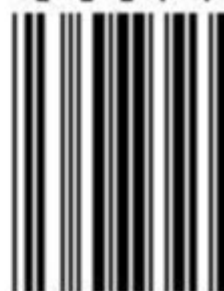
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