

Review

What are two sides of authority?

- The R_____ or P_____ to rule or command
- To A___ by the instruction and/or approval of the rightful ruler
- If you have not been given the A_____ Y to do a thing, then you don't have the R_____ to do it. You may have the P_____ (as in the ability), but that does not mean you have the R_____.

If we're concerned about authority, we're going to be concerned with...

- God's rule and His instruction and His L___
- What I M___ do and what I C___ do



Roadmap

- ✓ What is authority, and how is the word used in the Scriptures?
- ✓ We need authority in our lives
- ✓ God is the ultimate authority
- ✓ What our source and standard of authority is not
- ✓ How is God's authority expressed to man
- **Respecting God's silence**
- Using the inductive method to determine the will of God
- Determining God's will through commands, statements, examples, and necessary conclusions
- The Scriptures give us a pattern
- Generic and Specific authority
- Expediency
- Examples of respect and disrespect of authority
- Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



Lesson 6: Respecting the Silence of the Scriptures

- ❑ The objective of this lesson is to recognize the need to respect God's silence, i.e. the silence of the Scriptures.
- ❑ Silence
 - ❑ Means where God hasn't spoken
 - ❑ "which He had not commanded them"
 - ❑ "gave no such commandment"
 - ❑ "spoke nothing concerning"
- ❑ We know God's will by *what He has revealed*
- ❑ The Old Testament teaches respect for God's silence
- ❑ The New Testament teaches respect for God's silence
- ❑ We will see cases where acting upon God's silence was not pleasing to God

Two Attitudes

1. Silence is permission, consent

“Where does the Bible say not to?”

2. Silence does not give permission or consent

“What does the Bible say?”

The right attitude is #2. This is the attitude we see by precept and example in the Bible.

To presume to do something is to do a thing without right or permission

Last Week

- ❑ In the Old Testament, respect for God's silence was taught by commands and examples
 - ❑ We looked at several examples where Moses demonstrated this attitude: I will not act until I know what the will of God is on the matter
 - ❑ This demonstrates a respect for God's silence
- ❑ The New Testament teaches respect for God's silence

Tonight

- ❑ Complete this point: The New Testament teaches respect for God's silence
- ❑ Notice a couple of applications
- ❑ Concluding thoughts
- ❑ Begin lesson 7: Harmonize all the facts



The New Testament teaches God's silence is not consent

- ❑ Hebrews 7:11-14

- ❑ Acts 15:24

- ❑ God's silence is prohibitive. God's silence does not give permission.

Applications are far and wide

❑ First day of the week

- ❑ 1 Corinthians 16:2
- ❑ Acts 20:7
- ❑ God is silent regarding any other day
 - ❑ God did not say, “not the 2nd day, not the 3rd day, etc.”
- ❑ Because God is silent regarding any other day, there is no authority for any other day
- ❑ Can also say: “Cannot by faith practice these things on any other day”

❑ Sing

- ❑ Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
- ❑ God is silent regarding mechanical instruments, clapping, humming, accompanying dancing (and also burning incense, etc.)
 - ❑ God did not say, “not a guitar”
- ❑ Because God is silent regarding these other things, there is not authority for them

Respecting the silence of the Scriptures is not at odds with making application of Bible precepts

For example, you cannot find “shooting up heroin” in the Bible, but Bible precepts and commands answer the question

Respecting the silence of the Scriptures is not at odds with doing things that are authorized by generic aspects of a command

Sing

Slow, fast, harmony, unison, high, low, printed songs, songs on projector, songs from memory

Conclusion

Two approaches or attitudes

- The right approach

 - What has the Lord said?

- The wrong approach:

 - Where does it say not to?

 - This attitude does not work in the family, the workplace, etc..
But how many people want to use it religiously?

The silence of the Scriptures does not authorize.

Lesson 7: Harmonize All the Facts

- ❑ Objective of this lesson:
 - ❑ Recognize that determining the will of God involves gathering all the facts from the Bible and harmonizing them.

Gathering All the Facts & Harmonizing

- ❑ Gathering all the facts and harmonizing them to reach a conclusion is sometimes called the inductive method
- ❑ Induction: “Reasoning from particular facts or individual cases to a general conclusion; a conclusion reached by such reasoning” (Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 2014)
- ❑ Two necessary elements
 - ❑ Gather all the facts
 - ❑ “In the uses of this method of interpretation, all the facts are reported, and from them the conclusion is to be reached.” (Hermeneutics, Dungan, p. 83)
 - ❑ Harmonize
 - ❑ “Everything must be found to agree. Harmony is one of the demands of truth” (ibid., p.83)

Gathering All the Facts & Harmonizing

- ❑ We must take all of what God has said that relates to a subject and unite all of it in harmony
- ❑ This method is not unique to understanding the Bible
- ❑ Consider the following, but also consider how each may differ from answering religious questions
 - ❑ Science
 - ❑ Medicine
 - ❑ Law
 - ❑ Consider sworn testimony: “Do you swear to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth?”
 - ❑ How does this relate to gathering all the facts?
 - ❑ Deuteronomy 4:2
- ❑ Where do we obtain all the facts in order to answer a religious question?

