

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



Last Week

- ❑ We concluded this lesson: Respecting God's silence – respecting 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 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
 - ❑ We saw that respect for God's silence is taught in both Old Testament and New Testament by precept (rule that regulates behavior and thought) and in example
- ❑ We know God's will by *what He has revealed*
- ❑ 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?"
- ❑ Attitude 2 is correct
- ❑ 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?



Gathering All the Facts & Harmonizing: Does the Bible teach this approach?

Jesus taught it

Matthew 4:6-7

Matthew 22:23-33

Matthew 19:1-9

Luke 24:26-27

The apostles used it

Acts 15:7-17

When gathering the facts & harmonizing them...

- The facts must be accepted as truth
- The facts must be understood
 - John 20:9
- Even if the harmonized facts present a difficulty in our mind, that does not prove the conclusion wrong
 - Matthew 22:23-33
 - Note two problems:
 - Did not understand the Scriptures
 - Did not understand the power of God
 - Other examples?