

Review

- 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_____.
- God's silence does not AU_____ ZE. God's silence does not mean CON_____ I.
- Determining what is authorized involves HAR_____ NIZ_____ all the E_____.

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 8: Determining God's Will through Statements, Commands, Approved Examples, and Necessary Conclusions

- ❑ The Scriptures are our final authority. All facts from the Scriptures must be harmonized to determine what we must do and what we can do.

- ❑ **Objective of this lesson:**
 - ❑ Learn that statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary conclusions from the Scriptures should be used to determine what God has authorized. The Bible teaches this method.

Examples of these modes of communication

❑ Necessary Conclusions

- ❑ Could also be called a necessary inference or necessary implication.
- ❑ “Implication” is from the perspective of the speaker; “inference” is from the perspective of the hearer. The speaker implies, and the hearer infers.
- ❑ The hearer must not necessarily infer what the speaker did not necessarily imply.
- ❑ The hearer must necessarily infer what the speaker implied.
- ❑ A necessary conclusion derives its authority from God who necessarily implied it, not from man who necessarily (and rightly so) inferred it. [Dan King and Leon Boyd, “Responsibility and Authority in the Spiritual Realm”, page 36).
- ❑ Necessary – needed, not just wanted.
- ❑ Exodus 20:8; Acts 20:7

Do All Religious People Accept These Modes of Communication as Authoritative in Religion?

No, they do not.

There is an inconsistency here, for many of these same people accept the authority of these methods in other areas of life.

For example, civilly we have laws contained in statements and commands (do, do not), approved examples honored by courts through what is called precedents, and necessary conclusions.

Many will reject approved examples and necessary conclusions as being authoritative and accept only statements and commands as authoritative, yet there is an inconsistency here.

For example, no command was written directly to you or to me, i.e. with our names written there.

We must by necessary conclusion determine whether a command or statement is applicable to us.

Is Matthew 10:8 a command to us?

The question, however, is this: What do the Scriptures teach regarding these modes of communication?

What Jesus Taught Us About This Method

- ❑ Jesus taught us to respect statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary conclusions as authoritative.
- ❑ Statements are authoritative
 - ❑ John 6:45
- ❑ Commands are authoritative
 - ❑ Matthew 5:19-20
- ❑ Examples are authoritative
 - ❑ John 13:14
- ❑ Necessary conclusions are authoritative
 - ❑ Matthew 22:31-32; Luke 20:37-38
 - ❑ Matthew 9:1-8
 - ❑ Matthew 19:3-6

What the Apostles Taught Us About This Method

- ❑ The apostles expected us to respect statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary conclusions as authoritative.
- ❑ Statements are authoritative
 - ❑ Acts 20:35
 - ❑ Ephesians 4:4-6
- ❑ Commands are authoritative
 - ❑ 1 Corinthians 14:37
 - ❑ 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- ❑ Approved Examples are authoritative
 - ❑ 1 Corinthians 10:6-11
 - ❑ 1 Corinthians 11:1
 - ❑ Philippians 4:9
- ❑ Necessary conclusions are authoritative
 - ❑ 2 Peter 2:4-9