

Review

- God's silence does not AU_____ ZE. God's silence does not mean CON_____ T.
- Determining what is authorized involves HAR_____ NIZ_____ all the F_____.
- All the facts include COM_____ DS, STA_____ M_____ TS,
APP_____ DE_____ MP_____ S, and
NEC_____ A_____ C_____ CL_____ S

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
- **Generic and Specific authority**
- Expediency
- The Scriptures give us a pattern
- Examples of respect and disrespect of authority
- Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



Lesson 9: Generic & Specific Authority

Objective of this lesson:

- Understand that God speaks to man in the Bible in both generic and specific ways. Learn to recognize the generic and the specific aspects of God's instructions.

Definitions

- Generic = “relating to or descriptive of an entire group or class; general” (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd edition)
 - “1. Of, applied to, or referring to a kind, class, or group; inclusive or general: opposed to specific, special” (Webster’s New World Dictionary)
 - Generic authority is that which is “...including any thing, method, or means of execution that comes within the class or order of the precept, example, or thing commanded...” (Roy Cogdill, *Walking by Faith*, p.15)

Definitions

- Specific = “1. explicitly set forth; definite”; “3. Special, distinctive, or unique: specific qualities and attributes”; “4.a. intended for, applying to, or acting on a particular thing”
 - “1. Limiting or limited; specifying or specified; precise; definite; explicit: as a specific use of a word, for now specific reason”
(Webster’s New World Dictionary)
- We communicate in generic terms and in specific terms. These are a common part of language.
- God’s word is in language we can understand.
 - Ephesians 3:1-4
 - 1 Corinthians 14:11

Secular Illustration

- You give this instruction: “Son, here’s \$5. Run into the store and get a gallon of milk and bring back the change.”
- There are specific aspects of the instruction:
 - Milk
 - As to product to buy, the instruction is specific: milk
 - Gallon
 - As to quantity to buy, the instruction is specific: 1 gallon
- There are generic aspects of the instruction:
 - Regarding milk, these are not specified:
 - Brand
 - Fat content
 - The instruction, taken alone, is generic as to brand and fat content.

Secular Illustration

- We could stop here and see that the instruction contains both generic and specific aspects.
 - However, in this case, let's pretend there are approved precedents:
 - The family always buys Lucerne brand.
 - The family always buys whole milk.
 - These approved precedents would lead the son to necessarily conclude that he should buy Lucerne whole milk.

Old Testament Illustrations

- **Genesis 6:14**
 - Specific:
 - Gopherwood
 - Gopherwood is authorized
 - Gopherwood is a specific in the general class of “species of wood”
 - Other specifics within the general class are not authorized: Oak, pine, etc.
 - Generic aspects of “gopherwood” in this instruction
 - Size of trees, wood
 - Small, large, etc.
 - Location to obtain trees, wood
 - Back 40, national forest, etc.
 - Specific:
 - “Make ark”
 - Generic aspects of “make ark” in the instructions given
 - Tools
 - Tools are specifics/expedients authorized in the general command to make

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Gopherwood Genesis 6:14	Species of wood	Oak, pine, ebony, etc.	Size of wood, trees	Small, large, etc.
Make ark Genesis 6:14	Vessel	Row boat, sail boat, etc.	Tools	Hammer, nails, bailing wire, etc.

Old Testament Illustrations

- Exodus 12:3-5
 - Specific:
 - “Of the first year”
 - “Of the first year” is authorized
 - “Of the first year” is a specific in the general class of “age”
 - Other specifics within the general class of age are not authorized: Two-,three-year-old, etc.
 - Specific:
 - Male
 - Male is authorized
 - Male is a specific in the general class of sex
 - Other specifics within the general class of age are not authorized: Female
 - Specific:
 - Take on the tenth day of this month
 - “Take on the tenth day of this month” is authorized
 - “Take on the tenth day of this month” is a specific in the general class of day
 - Other specifics within the general class of age are not authorized: 9th, 11th, 1st, etc. day

Old Testament Illustrations

- Exodus 12:3-5
 - Generic aspects of the commands:
 - Color
 - Thus, black or white is authorized
 - Time of day to take it from the flock
 - Thus, any time of tenth day is authorized

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Take for himself...a male lamb from the sheep or from the goats Exodus 12:3-5	Species of animal	Ox, donkey, etc.	Color	White, black, etc.
	Sex	Female	Method to take	Rope, corner and grab, etc.

New Testament Illustrations

- Mark 16:15-16
 - Specific:
 - “The gospel”
 - The gospel is authorized to be preached
 - “The gospel” is specific within the general class of message
 - Another message, other than the gospel, not authorized
 - Generic aspects of the command to “preach the gospel...”
 - Setting/venue
 - The settings are specifics/expedients authorized in the general command to preach the gospel

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Go into all the world and preach the gospel Mark 16:15-16	Message	Popular psychology, personal testimonies	How to go	Foot, Car, Plane, etc.
			Setting/venue	Street corner, home, public building, etc.



New Testament Illustrations

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

- Specific:

- “bread”
- Bread is to be eaten (by way of necessary implication in the gospel accounts – unleavened bread)
- “bread” is specific within the general class of food
- Eating another food, other than unleavened bread, is not authorized

- Generic aspects of the command regarding the bread

- Grain

- The grain is a specific/expedient within unleavened bread

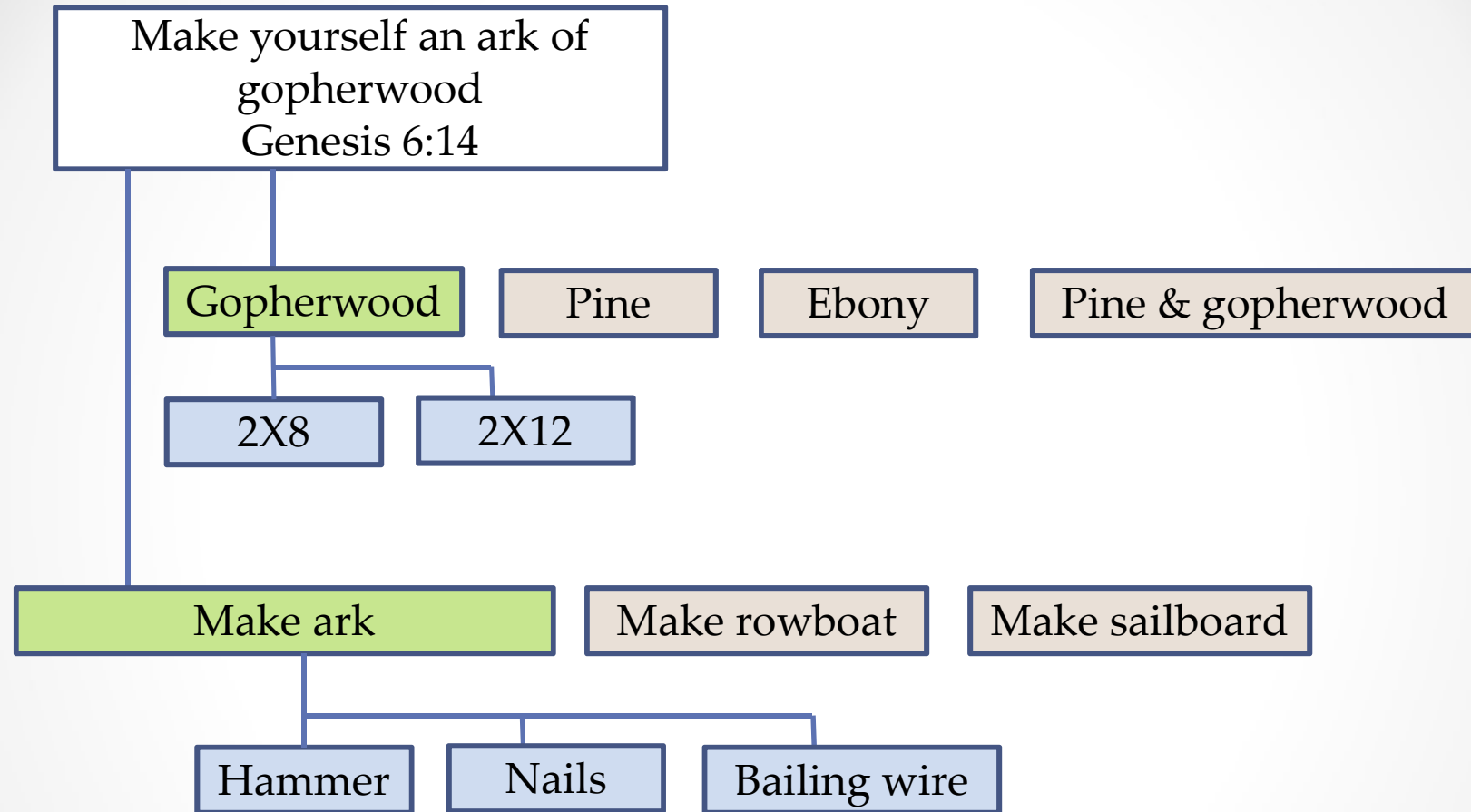
Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Eat the bread (1 Corinthians 11:23-24; Matthew 26:26)	Food	Turkey, green beans, fish	Grain	Wheat, barley, etc.

New Testament Illustrations

- **Colossians 3:16**
 - Specific:
 - “singing”
 - Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is authorized
 - “singing” is specific within the general class of music
 - Another music, other than singing, is not authorized
 - Specific:
 - “Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”
 - Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is authorized
 - “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” is specific within the general class of type of song
 - Another type of song, other than psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, is not authorized
 - Generic aspects of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - Organization of songs
 - Multiple verses, no chorus, repeated phrases, etc.

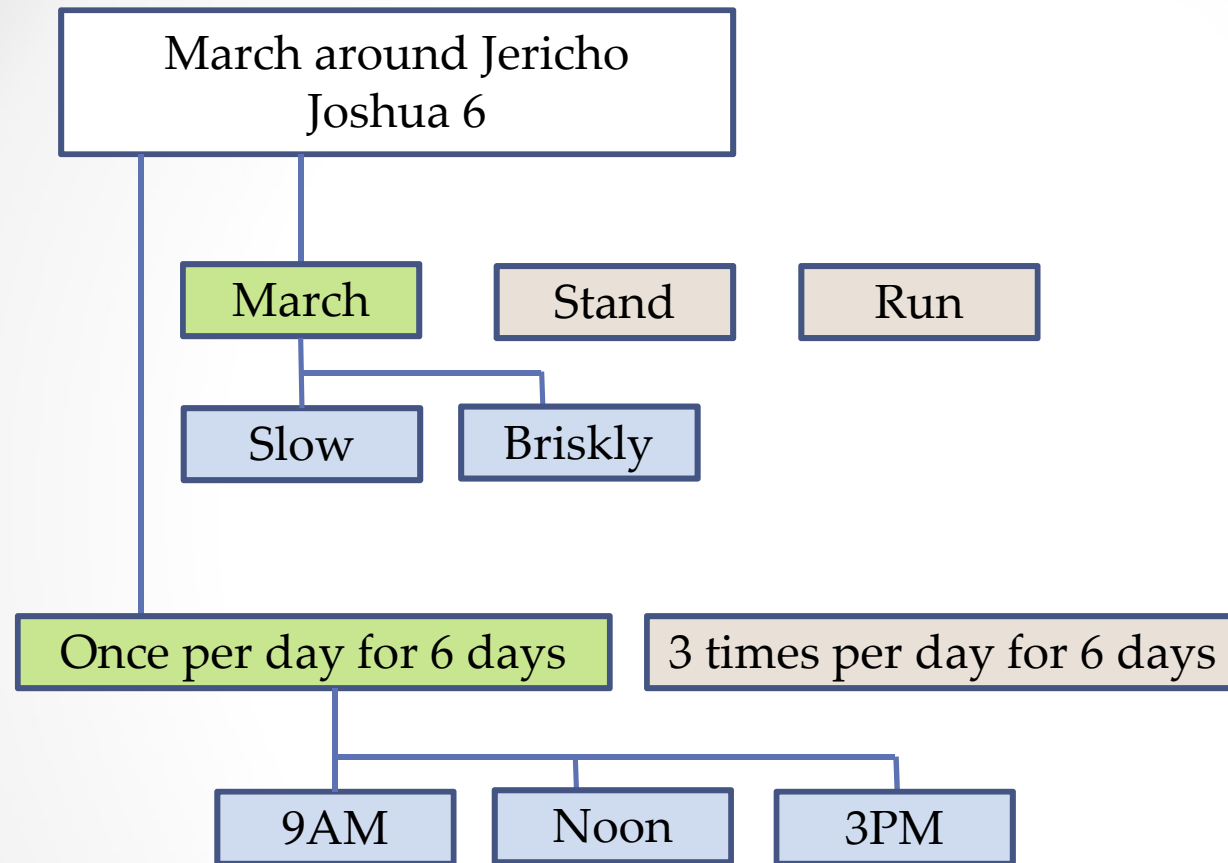
Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16)	Music	Entirely instrumental, sing + instrument, etc.	Harmony/unison/etc.	Soprano, alto, unison, etc.
			Method to sing the same thing	Memorized, printed songs, songs projected overhead
	Types of songs	Patriotic, folk, etc.	Organization of songs	Multiple verses, no chorus, repeated phrases, etc.

Generic & Specific



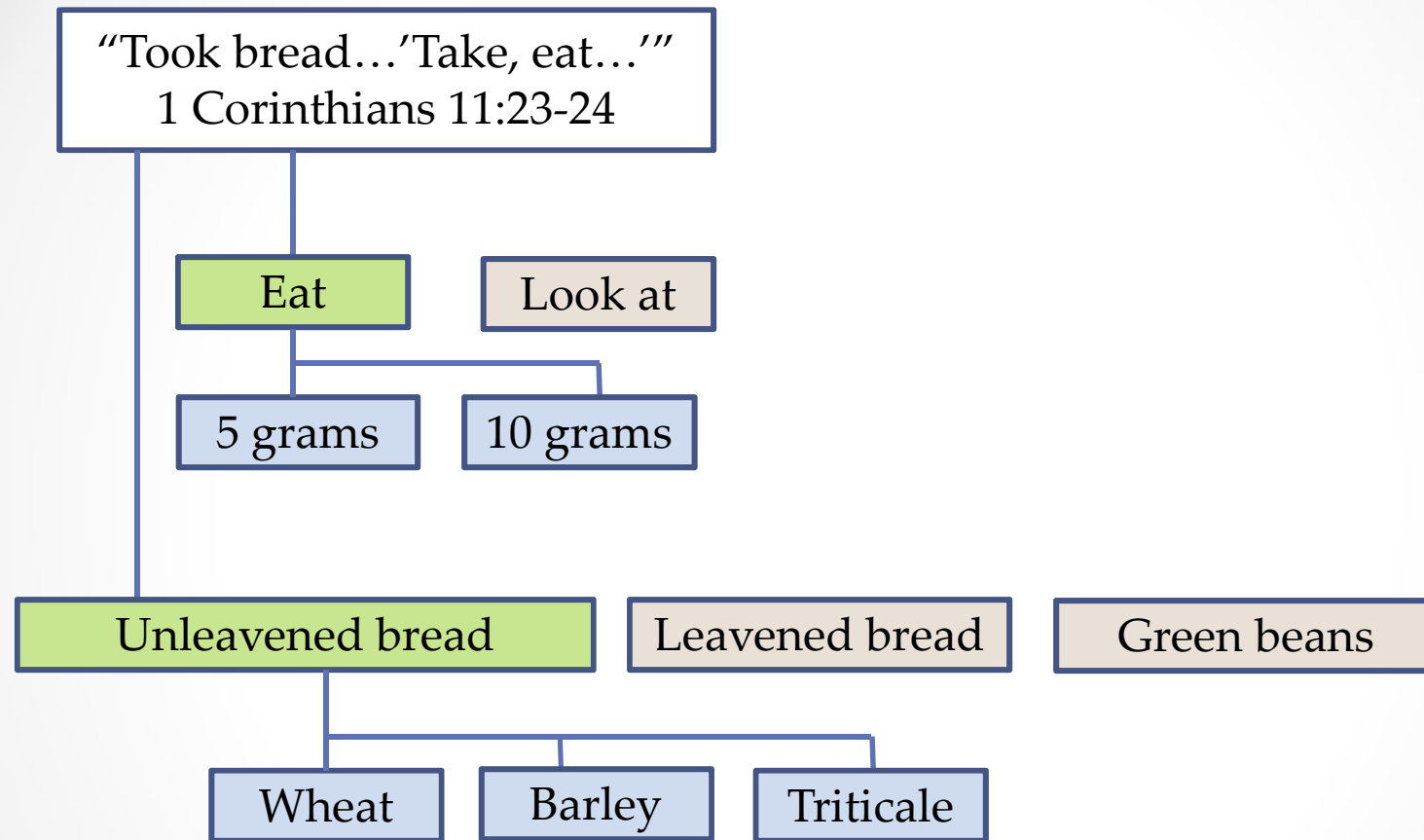
- Authorized
- Not Authorized
- An authorized specific/expedient
-

Generic & Specific



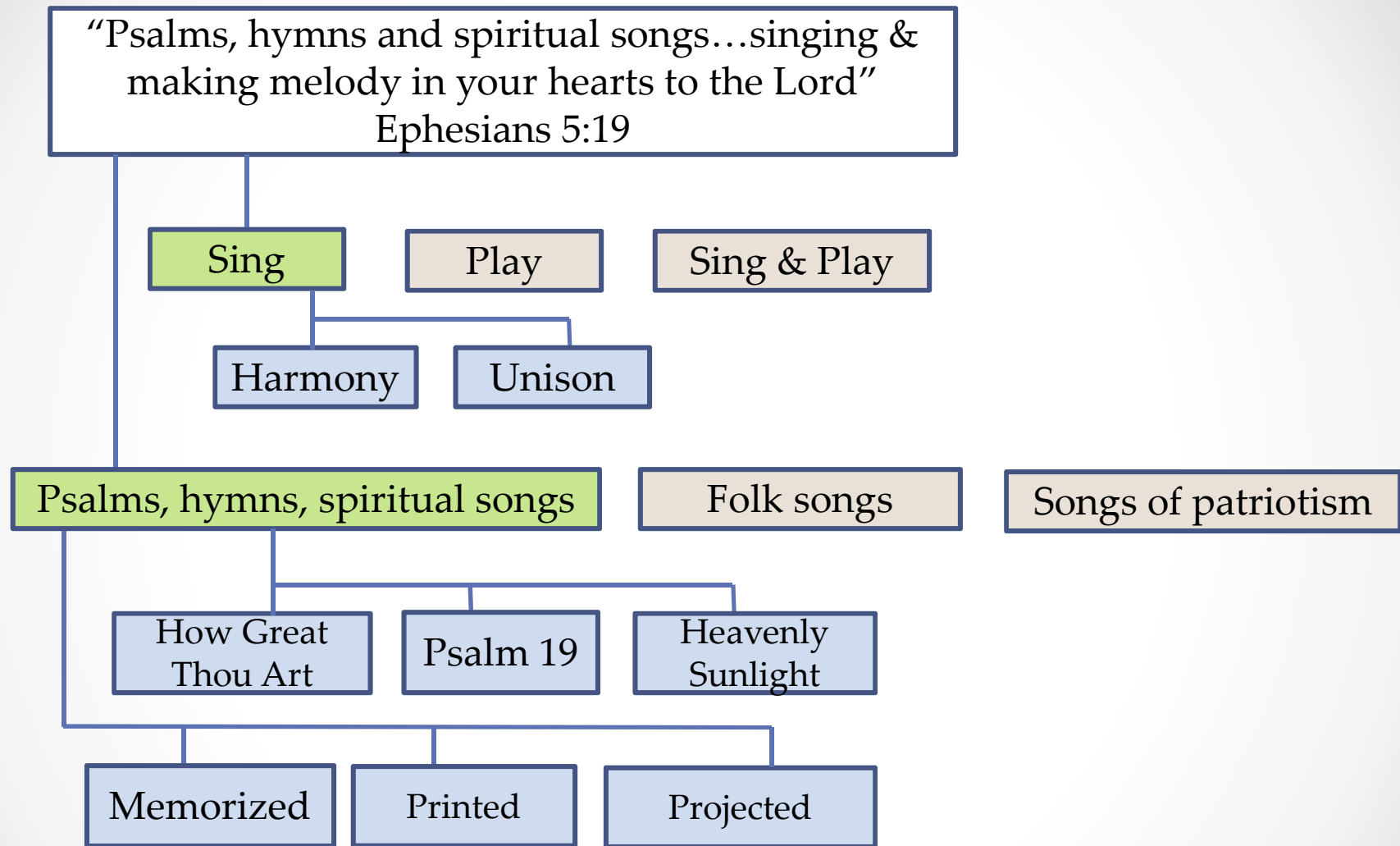
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Generic & Specific



- Authorized
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Generic & Specific



• Authorized

Not Authorized

An authorized specific/expedient

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Generic & Specific

