

# Review

- What are two sides of authority?
  - The right or power to rule or command
  - Acting by the instruction and/or approval of the rightful ruler
- When we are concerned with God's authority, we are concerned with what?
  - God's rule, His instruction, His Law
  - What I must do and what I can do
- Does God's silence give consent?
  - No
- Following the inductive method, what two things are required?
  - Gather all the facts
  - Harmonize them

# Review

- Name four things included in gathering all the facts.
  - Statements
  - Commands
  - Approved Examples
  - Necessary Conclusions
- When God's word is specific, do we have the right to make it generic?
  - No.
- When God's word is generic, does it authorize the specifics of that generic?
  - Yes.
- What does expedient mean?
  - Helpful or profitable in expediting or carrying out a command
- An expedient must first be what?
  - Lawful

# 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
- **When is an Example Binding?**
- The church and the individual
- The Scriptures give us a pattern
- Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



# Lesson 11: When is an Example Binding?

## ❑ **Objective of the lesson:**

- ❑ Consider some principles – simple and logical rules – that help in determining the applicability of New Testament examples.

# Remember

- In lesson 8, we established from the Scriptures that approved examples are authoritative
- This is not our opinion. We did not force or impose this into the New Testament Scriptures. Instead the Scriptures taught us this – both Jesus and the apostles taught us to respect approved examples as authoritative.
- We don't have the right to ignore approved examples.
- “Because the wheat must be separated from the chaff, so to speak, we do not solve the problem of harvesting by plowing under the entire crop” (D.E. Koltenbah, “The Three Methods of Argument to Establish Divine Authority”, Truth Magazine, July 1967)



# Asking: When is a New Testament example binding?

- This question ultimately is about harmonizing all the facts.
- We must consider:
  - The specific example
  - The immediate context of that example
  - The remote context – what the rest of the Bible has to say.
- In other words, harmonize all the facts (See Lesson 7)

# Principles

- (From Responsibility and Authority in the Spiritual Realm, by Dan King and Leon Boyd, p.38, and from Walking by Faith, by Roy Cogdill, pp.22-28)
- Uniformity
- Unity or harmony
- Universal application
- Materiality
- Competence
- Limited application



# Uniformity

- “Does it represent what was done everywhere by all the churches, or is it an isolated case?” (Dan King, Leon Boyd)
- Conversion
- Saul?
- Church’s use of funds



# Unity or harmony

- Approved examples must be understood in light of whatever else God has said on the subject.
- The church in Antioch sending relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea – Acts 11:29-30
- Observance of the Lord's Supper

# Universal Application

- The gospel is universal in application.
- But is the example of laying on of hands a practice for you and me?



# Materiality

- Distinguish between vital things and incidental or immaterial things.
- “Whether a thing is relevant, material, essential to the teaching or practice of God’s will is a most important consideration. Incidental matters are never relevant, material, or competent in determining the will of God. Incidental circumstances need to be separated from divine law in anything taught in God’s word” (Roy Cogdill)
- Baptism
- Assembling
- Lord’s Supper



# Competence

- “Is the statement or example fully capable to support what is claimed of it?” (Dan King, Leon Boyd)
- Lydia and her household – Acts 16:15
- Acts 11:30 – the church in Antioch sending relief “to the elders”

# Limited Application

- “Are reasons stated or implied which would limit the practice only to circumstances contextually required?” (Dan King, Leon Boyd)
- 1 Corinthians 7

# Conclusion

- Principles for recognizing whether an approved example is authoritative or what in an approved example is authoritative include uniformity, harmony, universality, materiality, competence, and recognizing limited applications.
- Determining whether an example is binding and what is binding about it is an extension of the principle to harmonize all the facts.
- Harmonizing all the facts involves considering the specific example, the immediate context, and the remote context.