

# 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

# Review

- What are some principles of logic to determine the applicability of New Testament accounts of activity (“examples”):
  - Uniformity
  - Harmony
  - Universality
  - Materiality
  - Competence
  - Recognizing limited applications

# 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 Scriptures give us a pattern
  - The church and the individual
  - Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



## Lesson 12: The New Testament Pattern

### **Objective of this lesson:**

- Understand the concept of a pattern and recognize the word of God constitutes an authoritative pattern for man to follow.
  
- Some say there is no pattern for the church to follow in its organization, worship, and work
- Let us see that God has always given men patterns and expected them to follow the patterns

# Pattern

- “Pattern” is a Bible word
- Noun
  - “a model, guide plan, etc. to be strictly followed” (Webster’s New World Dictionary, 1982)
  - “a plan, diagram, or model to be followed in making things” (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd edition)
- Verb
  - “to make, mold or design by following a pattern” (AHD, 3rd edition)
- Thayer: “b.) an example, pattern”.
  - Regarding “pattern” as used in 2 Timothy 1:13, he writes, “the pattern placed before one to be held fast and copied, model.”

# Pattern

- In the physical realm, there is a need for patterns.
- God has given men patterns in times past
  - The law of Moses presented a patterned for the nation of Israel
  - Examples
    - Tabernacle
    - Carrying of the ark of the covenant
    - Temple
- Some key words to recognize
  - “Pattern”
  - “According to”
  - “As the Lord...”

# Pattern in the New Testament

- The doctrine of Christ – the apostle’s doctrine – the gospel – is a pattern to be heard, believed, and obeyed
- Romans 6:17
- 2 Timothy 1:13
- 1 Timothy 1:3; 6:3
- And what was to be done with “the pattern of sound words,” 2 Timothy 1:13?
  - See 1:14; 2:2, 14-15; 3:10, 14; 4:1-2



# Pattern in the New Testament

- “According to” in the New Testament
- Just some of the places it is used:
  - Romans 2:2,16; 16:25-26; Colossians 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 6:3; Hebrews 8:5; 1 John 5:14-15
- 1 Corinthians 7:17 – note: “all the churches”
- 1 Corinthians 14:37 – emphasizing these commands are to be followed
- 2 John 9

## Compare these words of men to the word of God

“If we were to visit the churches described in the biblical period, we would find as much difference between the churches in Ephesus, Corinth, Athens and Jerusalem as between today’s Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Anglican, and Southern Baptist churches. The ancient congregations took on local color, depending on who the apostle was who first reached them, or on whether the culture around them was friendly or hostile. We know of the vast differences between the Jerusalemite and Pauline churches...The Pauline letters are nothing but addresses to a disunited church that was always in the process of moving ahead with that ideal and reality...I see the church as a family of apostolic churches in which no single model will prevail.” (Martin Marty, Professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Taken from Your Church magazine)



## Compare these words of men to the word of God

“...the New Testament is as perfect a constitution for the worship, discipline, and government of the New Testament Church, and as perfect a rule for the particular duties of its members, as the Old Testament was for the worship, discipline, and government of the Old Testament Church, and the particular duties of its members...Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the Church, or be made a term of communion among Christians, that is not as old as the New Testament.” (Excerpt from the Declaration and Address of the Christian Association of Washington, Penn., written under the names of Thomas Campbell and Thomas Acheson and published in 1809. Taken from Pioneer Sermons and Addresses (F.L. Rowe, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1908), p. 40.)



# Conclusion

- The Old Testament shows us that God gave men patterns in times past.
- The doctrine of Christ – the apostles' doctrine – in the New Testament constitutes a pattern for men to follow today.
- Following the pattern of God on any subject is done by
  - Taking all of what the Scriptures reveal by command, statement, approved examples, and necessary conclusions, and
  - Harmonizing those facts
- Don't be ashamed of recognizing, believing, and contending for the New Testament pattern.



# Roadmap

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- ✓ The Scriptures give us a pattern
- **The church and the individual**
- Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



## Lesson 13: The Church and the Individual

### ❑ **Objective of this lesson:**

- ❑ The failure to make a distinction between what the individual Christian is authorized to do and what the local church is authorized to do has led in the past to a corruption of the church's work. In this lesson, we want to recognize the distinction made in the New Testament so that we are sure the church of which we are a member is doing what is authorized.

# What Some Have Said

- “The church is composed of Christians; what the church does, Christians do; what Christians do, the church does, generally speaking. We cannot separate the Christian’s work from the work of the church....Actually, we may say that whatever is the duty of a Christian is the duty of a congregation of Christians” (V.E. Howard, “Institutionalism, Orphan Homes, and Church Cooperation”, 1958, pp.6-7)
- Does the Bible teach this?

# What Some Have Said

- “Any good work which the individual, as a Christian, is obligated to support financially, the church is equally obligated to support financially.” (Batsell Barrett Baxter, “Question and Issues of the Day”, 1963, p.23)
- Does the Bible teach this?



# What Some Have Said

- “They make a difference between Christian duties and church duties, Christian responsibilities and church responsibilities, Christian work and church work, all of which is absurd on its face.” (G.C. Brewer, The Harding College Lectures, 1948, p.113)
- Does the Bible teach this?

# What Some Have Said

- “The gospel teaches Christians how to properly behave themselves in every relation to life. It teaches how they should conduct themselves at home. Husbands and wives, and parents and children are taught their respective duties in the home, but the home is not the local church and the local church is not the home. They were established at different times and for different purposes, and the duties of one are not duties of the other....The gospel teaches Christians how to properly conduct their “affairs” as citizens in their relation to the civil power, but their duties in this area of life are not local church functions....Whether in civil affairs, home relations, business activities, or social and recreational functions, a Christians duties in these relations are not local church duties or fulfilled through local church action...To turn the church into a kind of social club and recreational gymnasium is a perversion of the divine pattern and for it there is no excuse...Local church duty and action has to do with the function of the local church, as Christ has specified in the scriptures. May we all think of these things.” (Franklin T. Puckett, “Individual vs. Church Action”, The Arlington Meeting, 1968, pp. 157-158,160)
- Does the Bible teach this?

