

# 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
- Does the NT teach that the apostle’s doctrine is a pattern? If so, where?
  - 2 Timothy 1:13

# Review

- Is the local church authorized to collectively do anything the individual Christian does?
  - No
- What is an example of teaching in the New Testament that distinguishes church action from individual action?
  - Matthew 18:15-17
  - 1 Timothy 5:3-16

# 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 14: Assaults Upon Authority

### ❑ **Objective of this lesson:**

- ❑ Attacks upon the authority of Christ were predicted by the apostles, experienced in the first century, and continue today. Let us be forewarned about the assaults so that we can be forearmed and ready to make a defense for the truth.

# Departures from the Authority of Christ

- Predicted
  - Acts 20:29-31
  - 2 Peter 2:1-3
- From insiders
  - 2 Peter 2:20-21
  - Acts 20:29
- The antidote, the solution?
  - Acts 20:31-32
  - 2 Peter 3:16-18

## Improper Attitudes toward Authority

- “Cannot be sure about the truth”
- “The Scriptures are not complete...there are other details that could have occurred that would change our understanding”
- “Times have changed”
- “History, science, etc. ought to be consulted also in order to know what pleases God” – considering history, science authoritative
- Charges of legalism and “Phariseeism” when we ask for book, chapter, and verse
- “The New Testament is a book of love letters, not a book of law”





# Improper Attitudes toward Authority

- Unity in diversity
- “Core gospel”
- “Not under law but under grace”
- “Live according to the Spirit, not the letter”
- “The only pattern we ought to preach is Jesus”

## Failure to respect the authority of Christ seen:

- Failure to respect God's silence as prohibitive
- Failure to gather all the facts and then harmonize them
- Rejection of need for statement, command, example, or necessary inference
- Being generic where God is specific
- Binding a specific where God was generic
- Calling something expedient that is not first lawful or authorized

## From Burton Coffman's Commentary on Mark 7:8-9:

- Behold the life cycle of tradition:
- First appears the innovation, something new, clothed with specious plausibility, riding the crest of some unusual occasion, some exceptional circumstance, or emergency.
- It is repeated and moves into a place of acceptance as something allowed, occasionally at first, invariably afterwards.
- It becomes appreciated as an "aid" to the worship, something helpful.
- Eventually, it is stressed and emphasized to the detriment of what it is supposed to "aid."
- It achieves, through long usage, a status of equality with God's word.
- It is finally performed, occasionally, but later, always, instead of God's commandment.
- Finally, it blooms as a presumptuous, rebellious contradiction of God's word, and is constantly honored in place of it.
- In the light of Christ's word, "In vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men," one is compelled to view innovations in Christian worship as extremely sinful and hurtful.



- In defense of instrumental music in worship to God:
  - “Jesus never deals with the issue. The anti-instrument advocates must speak where Jesus has not spoken....He never addressed the issue of music once. And you would think He would if this was worth splitting the church over.” (Rick Atchley, preaching at Richland Hills Church of Christ in December 2006, from “Richland Hills & Instrumental Music, A Please to Reconsider” by Dave Miller, 2007, p.27)
- What’s wrong here?
  - Lack of respect for God’s silence

- In defense of instrumental music in worship to God:
  - “Instrumental music is a non-issue in the book of Acts....We do know that the early disciples met daily in the temple courts. Apparently, they could worship in spirit and truth in the presence of instrumental music.” (Rick Atchley, preaching at Richland Hills Church of Christ in December 2006, from “Richland Hills & Instrumental Music, A Please to Reconsider” by Dave Miller, 2007, p.30)
- What’s wrong here?
  - Presumption.
  - The approved is not competent to support his claim.

- In defense of instrumental music in worship to God:
  - “New Testament commands to sing neither prescribe nor prohibit instrumental music.” (Rick Atchley, preaching at Richland Hills Church of Christ in December 2006, from “Richland Hills & Instrumental Music, A Plea to Reconsider” by Dave Miller, 2007, p.38)
- What’s wrong here?
  - Lack of respect for the silence of the Scriptures

- In defense of instrumental music in worship to God:
  - “There is no New Testament command to sing only a *capella*. To say that ‘sing’ means ‘sing only’ is a human inference that comes dangerously close to speaking where God has not spoken.” (Rick Atchley, preaching at Richland Hills Church of Christ in December 2006, from “Richland Hills & Instrumental Music, A Plea to Reconsider” by Dave Miller, 2007, p.44)
- What’s wrong here?
  - Who’s actually doing the *unnecessary* inferring?
  - We sing in obedience to the command to sing
  - We don’t play a mechanical instrument because of respect for the silence of God.
  - Remember the lesson on generic and specific authority

- In defense of instrumental music in worship to God:
  - “The New Testament refers to instrumental music in heaven.” (Rick Atchley, preaching at Richland Hills Church of Christ in December 2006, from “Richland Hills & Instrumental Music, A Please to Reconsider” by Dave Miller, 2007, p.46)
- What’s wrong here?
  - 2 Timothy 2:15
  - Rightly divide the word of truth, and respect context