

Bible Authority



What Is Authority?

- **The word “authority” denotes: “the power to command, or the power to enforce rules and to demand obedience.”**
- **To have “authority” for what we do means that we have the freedom or the right and permission to act as it comes from one who has the right to order.**

Who Has Authority Over Religious Matters?

- **The prime source of all authority is God our Father who is in heaven. (Isaiah 64:8)**
 - **In times past He expressed His authority through the holy prophets. (Hebrews 1:1)**
 - **In these last days He expresses His authority through His Son. (Hebrews 1:2)**
- **God, the Father, has delegated all authority to His Son, Jesus the Christ. (Matthew 28:18)**
 - **He spoke as one having authority. (Matthew 7:28-29)**
 - **He is the head of the church. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24)**

Who Has Authority Over Religious Matters?

- God revealed His will to His prophets, and the teachings of Jesus was given to His apostles to be written down and preserved for all time. Therefore, the Bible (i.e. God's all inspired word) is to be our ONLY source of authority when it comes to religious matters today. It is our standard of authority. (Ephesians 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:1-2)**
- We must understand that no man has any authority over religious matters. (Matthew 15:1-9; 2 John 9-11)**

How Do We Establish Bible Authority?

- **Bible authority is established in three ways.**
 - **Direct Command (i.e. a clear cut command or order).**
 - **Approved Example (i.e. an approved account of action).**
 - **Necessary Inference or Conclusion (i.e. an unavoidable conclusion).**
- **An example of how to establish Bible authority.**

The Observance of The Lord's Supper

- **The direct command is "This do." (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)**
- **The approved example is its observance on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7)**
- **The necessary conclusion is it must be observed every first day of the week. (Acts 20:7)**

Some Improper Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

- **A belief that no Bible authority is needed for what we do. (Proverbs 14:12; Colossians 2:23)**
- **An improper regard for the silence of the Scriptures on a matter. (1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11)**
- **An improper view of specific and generic authority.**
 - **Specific authority is exclusive authority. It excludes everything that is not specifically commanded (i.e. the New Testament Scriptures only command singing). (Ephesians 5:19)**
 - **Generic authority is inclusive authority. It includes any method of execution falling within the class of what has been authorized. (i.e. the going in “go into all the world and preach the gospel” is not limited to a specific mean of transportation. (Mark 16:16)**
- **An improper view of expediencies. (1 Corinthians 6:12)**

Why The Need For Bible Authority?

- **The nature of man requires it. (Jeremiah 10:23)**
- **The wisdom of men is foolishness in comparison to the wisdom of God. (Isaiah 55:8-9; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)**
- **Without it, there would be total chaos concerning the subject of religious matters. (1 Corinthians 14:33)**
 - **Even the religious rulers in the first century recognized the need for authority in regard to spiritual matters. (Matthew 21:23)**
 - **The response of Jesus gives even more support for the need for authority when it comes to spiritual matters. (Matthew 21:24-25)**
- **Acting without authority is lawlessness, and it will result in eternal condemnation. (Matthew 7:21-29; 2 Thess. 1:8-9)**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear the word of God and keep it. (Luke 11:28)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:37)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ before men. (Matthew 10:32)**
- **Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**