

# **Establishing Bible Authority**

# **How Do We Establish Bible Authority For What We Practice In Religion Today?**

- The New Testament constitutes the will of Christ, and to add or subtract from what it authorizes as taught in the doctrine of Christ is to pervert and disrespect His authority. (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9)**
- The doctrine of Christ was taught and practiced by the apostles and the early disciples of Christ, and we are to likewise follow the doctrine of Christ as our standard of authority today concerning our practices. (Acts 2:42,5:28; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 John 9)**

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- **Bible Authority is established by three ways.**
  1. **By direct command. (i.e. a clear cut command or statement)**
  2. **By approved example. (i.e. an approved account of action)**
  3. **By necessary inference. (i.e. an unavoidable conclusion)**
- **We find all three ways of establishing authority for what was to be done concerning the topic of circumcision in Acts 15. (Acts 15:6-17)**
  1. **An appeal to a direct statement. (Acts 15:16-17)**
  2. **An appeal to an approved example. (Acts 15:7-12)**
  3. **An appeal to necessary inference. (Acts 15:8-10)**

# **How Do We Establish Bible Authority For What We Practice In Religion Today?**

- **How to establish Bible authority for the observance of the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:20)**
  1. **Direct command is "do this and this do." (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)**
  2. **Approved example is observance on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of week. (Acts 20:7)**
  3. **Necessary inference is to observe every 1<sup>st</sup> day of week. (Acts 20:7)**
- **We can also learn that these same principals of establishing authority for what is to be followed according to the will of our Father in heaven was likewise used by Jesus as He taught. (Matthew 7:28)**
  1. **Jesus used direct statements. (Matthew 19:16-19)**
  2. **Jesus used approved examples. (Matthew 12:1-8)**
  3. **Jesus used necessary inference. (Matthew 22:31-33)**

# **We Must Understand Both Specific and Generic Authority When Establishing Bible Authority**

- Specific authority is established by a direct or a specific command or statement, and this type of authority excludes everything outside of that which is specified. (Ref. Colossians 3:16)**
- Generic authority is established when there is not a specific method or action specified in carrying out a specific command, and in the case of generic authority we may use any method or action that comes within the realm of the specific command in order to carry it out. (Ref. Mark 16:15)**

# **Some Ways In Which We Do Not Establish Bible Authority**

- We do not establish Bible authority by what we think is right. (Acts 26:9-11)**
- We do not establish Bible authority through the wisdom of men or by following the traditions of men. (1 Corinthians 1:20-25; Mark 7:7-9)**
- We do not establish Bible authority by the silence of the Scriptures. (Hebrews 7:14)**
- Simply put, we do not establish Bible authority for what we practice in religion today any differently from the first century Christians. (Colossians 3:17)**

# God's Plan of Salvation

- **Hear the word of God. (Luke 11:28; Romans 10:17)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24; Acts 8:37)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27-29)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**