

LESSON 4-HOW SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY CAN BE ESTABLISHED



**GOD HAS GIVEN TO CHRIST ABSOLUTE
AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH.
CHRIST IS GOD'S LAWGIVER TO HIS PEOPLE
TODAY (HEB. 1:1-2)**

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;.”

“ALL AUTHORITY” GIVEN INTO HIS HANDS (MATT. 28:18).

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **“All authority”** has been given to **Me** in heaven and on earth.”

HE IS "HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS BODY" (EPH. 1:21-22).

“far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,”

**CHRIST GAVE BINDING AND LOOSING AUTHORITY
ONLY TO HIS APOSTLES.**

**HEAVEN RESPECTS ONLY THE AUTHORITY OF
CHRIST THROUGH THE APOSTLES (MATT. 16:19).**

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**”

THE APOSTLES COMMISSIONED (JOHN 20:21-23)

“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 **If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.**”

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IS EXERCISED BY THE APOSTLES: THE SCRIPTURES ARE PERFECT AND COMPLETE, THEREFORE SUFFICIENT (2 TIM. 3:16-17).

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IS EXERCISED BY THE
APOSTLES: WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO GO BEYOND
WHAT IS WRITTEN (GAL. 1:6-8).**

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

(2 JOHN 9-11)

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST IS EXERCISED BY THE APOSTLES: WE MUST FOLLOW THE APOSTOLIC PATTERN (PHIL. 3:16-19).

“Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule**, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, **join in following my example**, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”

HOW TO ESTABLISH AUTHORITY FROM NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

BY PRECEPT: BY THIS WE MEAN DIRECT STATEMENT OR POSITIVE COMMAND (ACTS. 2:38).

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

**HOW TO ESTABLISH AUTHORITY FROM NEW
TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.**

BY APPROVED EXAMPLE

BY NECESSARY INFERENCE

THESE THREE METHODS OF RECEIVING DIVINE AUTHORITY ARE ILLUSTRATED BY THE LORD'S SUPPER:

By Precept - its observance. (1 Cor. 11:25) “In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. **This do**, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

THESE THREE METHODS OF RECEIVING DIVINE AUTHORITY ARE ILLUSTRATED BY THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Approved example - the time of its observance.

(Acts 20:7) “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread”

THESE THREE METHODS OF RECEIVING DIVINE AUTHORITY ARE ILLUSTRATED BY THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Necessary Inference- the frequency of its observance. (Acts 20:7) “And **upon the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread”

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF AUTHORITY.

GENERIC

SPECIFIC

GENERIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED. “GO”

(MAT 28:19) “GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,”

How?

- Walk
- Ride
- Fly
- Sail

Which?

God did not specify. He gave us the choice. No man has the right to bind a specific method.

GENERIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED. “TEACH”

(MAT 28:20) “TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE

How?

- **Private**
- **Public**
- **Class**

Which?

God did not specify. He gave us the choice. No man has the right to bind a specific method.

GENERIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED.

“ASSEMBLE” (HEB. 10:25) **“NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS IS THE MANNER OF SOME, BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING”**

Where?

- Home
- Rented Hall
- Own Meeting House

Which?

God did not specify. Left to man's judgement to select the most expedient.

**SPECIFIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED. NOAH'S ARK
“BUILD IT OF GOPHER WOOD” (GEN. 6:14) “MAKE
YOURSELF AN ARK OF GOPHER WOOD; MAKE
ROOMS IN THE ARK, AND COVER IT INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE WITH PITCH.”**

Gopher Wood

Excluded:

- **Walnut**
- **Pine**
- **Ash**
- **All other kinds
of wood**

Which?

**God specified the type of wood:
Did not leave it to man's
judgement to select.**

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED. “SING”
(EPH. 5:19) “SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER IN
PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS,
SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART
TO THE LORD;”

**Excludes every
other kind of
music**

- **Organ**
- **Guitar**
- **Harp**
- **Any other
Instrument**

**Instrumental' music is excluded
by the fact that God specified
"sing" and that does not include
"playing" an instrument.**

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED. “THE LORD’S SUPPER ELEMENTS” (1 COR. 11:23-25) **“FOR I RECEIVED FROM THE LORD THAT WHICH I ALSO DELIVERED TO YOU: THAT THE LORD JESUS ON THE SAME NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED TOOK BREAD; 24 AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE BROKE IT AND SAID, “TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.” 25 IN THE SAME MANNER HE ALSO TOOK THE CUP AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, “THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD. THIS DO, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”**

The Unleavened bread and fruit of the vine excluded every other element

God has made the choice with reference to these matters and man has nothing but to do the will of God or rebel.

Sadly, in churches around the world today, many pastors and professed believers have compromised on the authority of Scripture. They've given in to the world's culture and formed a low view of God's Word. They'd never admit it, but **they've bought the lie that truth is relative. They've lifted the banner of culture and ignored God's clear word, calling evil good and good evil.**

In so doing, they've passed on to the next generation Satan's Garden temptation—the sin of doubting the faithfulness and authority of God and Scripture. “Did God really say?” In the beginning, God spoke, and He still speaks with His divine authority through His Son on every page of the sacred Scriptures.