

# How Scriptural Authority Can Be Established

TEXT: Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11; Col. 3:17.

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING AND TEACHING NOTHING FOR WHICH THERE IS NO SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY.
- B. OUR AIM: "SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS, BE SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT."
- C. HOW CAN SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY BE ESTABLISHED?
- I. **GOD SPEAKS TODAY THROUGH JESUS**( Heb. 1:1-2 ).
  - A. HE HAS ALL AUTHORITY( Matt. 28:18 ).
  - B. THE APOSTLES' TEACHING IS HIS, THEY TEACH WITH AUTHORITY ( Matt. 16:19 ).
  - C. TO REJECT THEM IS TO REJECT JESUS AND GOD( Luke 10:16 ).

## II. **HOW DO THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLES, THE NEW TESTAMENT, TEACH?**

- A. BY **PRECEPT** - A direct command or statement.
- B. BY **DIVINELY APPROVED EXAMPLE** - By this we mean the practice of the church in the New Testament under apostolic guidance and which the apostles had received from the Lord, and therefore by divine guidance.
- C. BY **INFERENCE** - That which though neither expressly stated nor specifically exemplified yet is necessarily implied by the clear import and meaning of the language used
- D. LET'S NOTICE SOME ILLUSTRATIONS:

### LORD'S SUPPER

### CHURCH MUSIC

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<b>PRECEPT</b>	<b>1 Cor. 11:23</b> , Observe	<b>Eph. 5:19</b> , Sing
<b>EXAMPLE</b>	<b>Acts 20:7</b> , When to take	<b>Acts 16:25</b> , Sing
<b>INFERENCE*</b>	<b>Acts 20:7</b> , Frequency	<b>2 John 9</b> , Sing only

\*Which first day is not specified, like which Sabbath day was not.

Every Sabbath was to be observed. Every first day is to be observed.

## III. **THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF AUTHORITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

- A. **GENERIC** - Includes any thing, method, or means of execution that comes within the same order or class of the precept, example or inference –  
**INCLUDES! Where God has not been specific.**
- B. **SPECIFIC** - Excludes everything, method or means of execution that comes within the same order or class which is not particularly specified in the precept, example, inference. **EXCLUDES!** God has specified.
- C. **GENERIC AUTHORITY** ILLUSTRATED:
  - 1. **Mat. 28:19-20**. "Go!" How? "Teach!" What method? "Baptize!" Where?
  - 2. **Heb. 10:25**. "Assemble!" God did not specify, **man must choose** for himself.
  - 3. **Eph. 5:19**. "Sing!" From a book? Memory? Overhead? God didn't specify, **man cannot bind**.

4. Whatever expedient is chosen, it must not violate any law or principle found in the New Testament.

D. **SPECIFIC AUTHORITY ILLUSTRATED:**

1. Noah's Ark( **Gen. 6:14** ). Gopher wood excludes oak.
2. Lord's Supper( **Mat. 26:26-29** ). Unleavened bread and fruit of the vine excludes pie and ice cream.  
**Acts 20:7** excludes Monday observance.
3. Music( **Eph. 5:19** ). Sing excludes other kinds of music.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. WE MUST ESTABLISH SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY FOR ALL WE DO.
- B. GOD HAS GIVEN US A PATTERN FOR SALVATION, OUR LIVES, AND THE CHURCH.