

Lesson 1 - Why Are We Divided?

Is Division Necessarily Bad?

1. A stand for the Truth may result in family division

Luke 12:51-53; Matt 10:34-37

2. God authorizes separation of the pure and the impure within the church

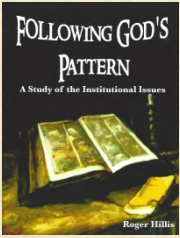
1 Cor 5:4-5; 2 Thess 3:6

3. Those who teach false doctrine must not be tolerated

Rom 6:17; 1 Jno 4:1; 2 Jno 9:9-11

4. Division is sometimes commanded by God *1 Cor 1:10;*

Eph 4:1-3



Lesson 1 - Why Are We Divided?

Avoiding Side Issues that Cloud the Real Issues

- Personal likes or dislikes
- Personality conflicts
 - Anger or ego
 - Emotions

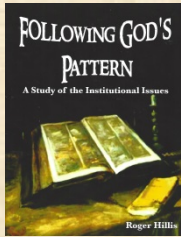
FOLLOWING GOD'S PATTERN

A Study of the Institutional Issues



Lesson 2

The Need for Bible Authority



Lesson 2 - The Need For Bible Authority

False Standards of Authority

1. Following One's Conscience

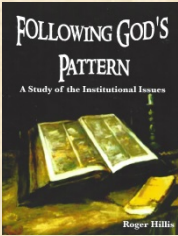
- *"Let your conscience be your guide"*
- What is the problem with using that as our standard?

2. Majority Opinion

- *If a large enough group believes something to be true; it must be right.*
- What is the problem with using that as our standard?

3. Following the religion of one's parents

- *"if it was good enough for Mom and Dad, it must be good enough for me."*
- What is the problem with using that as our standard?



Lesson 2 - The Need For Bible Authority

Bible Authority

- 1. What is Bible Authority?**
- 2. Who established it?**
- 3. When was it established?**
- 4. Why is it important that I understand it?**

A Brief Study of Bible Authority



*All That God Demands of Us is
Reflected in 2 Main ways*

- ❖ **In His written word, in both positive and negative statements**
- ❖ **Understood by His silence on a particular subject**

Understanding Written Authority

Jesus said in Matt 28:18

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

God said in Mark 9:7

"This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him"

Understanding Written Authority

Bible authority for any teaching or practice can **ONLY be established by one or more of the following three ways:**

- ❖ *Direct Command*
- ❖ *Approved Apostolic Example*
- ❖ *Necessary Inference*

Understanding Written Authority

Direct Command

2 Thess 3:6

*But we **command** you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. NKJV*

Understanding Written Authority

Approved Apostolic Example

Acts 20:7

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. NKJV

Understanding Written Authority

Necessary Inference

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* NKJV

Because **a place** to assemble is required, **a place is thus necessarily inferred**; and therefore it becomes our **authority** for a meeting house or other arrangements

Two Types of Bible Authority

- 1. General or generic**
- 2. Specific**

Two Types of Bible Authority

- ❖ **General authority includes all specific authority**
- ❖ **Specific authority excludes all other specifics**

*Let's illustrate using
2 Old Covenant & 2 New
Covenant Examples*

Bible Authority Illustrated

Old Covenant Examples

Auth.	Generic Command	Specific Command	Exp.	Additions
Gen 6:14ff	Build an ark	Gopher Wood	Tools	Pine, Oak

Bible Authority Illustrated

Old Covenant Examples

Auth.	Generic Command	Specific Command	Exp.	Additions
Gen 6:14ff	Build an ark	Gopher Wood	Tools	Pine, Oak
Num 20:8ff	Bring forth water	Speak to the rock	Loud, Soft, Kneel, Stand	Smite the rock

Bible Authority Illustrated

New Covenant Examples

Auth.	Generic Command	Specific Command	Exp.	Additions
Matt: 26:26- 29	Take the Lord's Supper	Bread & Fruit of the Vine	Tray Cup	Coffee, Donuts

Bible Authority Illustrated

New Covenant Examples

Auth.	Generic Command	Specific Command	Exp.	Additions
Matt: 26:26- 29	Take the Lord's Supper	Bread & Fruit of the Vine	Tray Cup	Donuts, Coffee
Eph 5:19 & Col 3:16-17	Sing & make melody	In your heart by speaking	Soprano Alto Tenor Bass	Play a Musical Instru- ment

*All that God expects of Man has been recorded
so that Man is without excuse for disobedience*

REMEMBER

- ❖ To **Add** to or **Delete** ANY authorized specific is to sin before God!
- ❖ In 1 Cor 4:6 the apostle Paul **commanded** that men might learn “*not to go beyond the things which are written*”

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man

God →



John 17:1-5

1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "**Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,**

2 as You have ***given Him authority*** over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man



Eph 1:20-23

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and ***seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,***

21 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,***

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man



John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever -

17 **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26

26 **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man



Eph 3:4-5

4 by which, when **you read**, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has ***now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.***

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any ***private*** interpretation,
21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but ***holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

NKJV

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man



Rom 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the ***word of God***.

1 Thess 2:13

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the ***word of God*** which you ***heard from us***, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but ***as it is in truth, the word of God***, which also effectively works in you who believe.

1 Peter 1:25

25 But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now ***this is the word*** which by ***the gospel*** was preached to you.

How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man



Man can thus:

- ✓ Read the Direct revelation God
- ✓ Have confidence that it is the Truth
- ✓ Understand exactly what he is to believe
- ✓ Obey the gospel of Christ
- ✓ Become a member of God's family
- ✓ Live righteously & godly before God
- ✓ Be saved eternally