

*Title: How To Establish Authority Part #2*

Last week, we began to consider how to establish Bible authority. This bulletin will build from last week. How does God authorize a practice? There is no chapter in the Bible where God goes into a detailed study of how He authorizes. God doesn't have to do that. The reason for this is that God speaks to us in such a way that is commonly understood by all men in communications. God does not have to give us a special set of rules to follow in studying the Bible. ***The same rules that apply in all areas of communication apply here also!*** God authorizes by direct statement, example and implication.

1. A father speaking to his son teaches his son in these same three ways.
2. An instruction manual (for operating an automobile) speaks or authorizes in the same way.
3. It's the very nature of any kind of authority to speak or authorize in this way.

Let's focus a little more on direct statements.

1. This is where God has made a positive statement pertaining to the thing at issue. God may tell us to do, not to do, etc. The direct statement is sometimes referred to as ***a command or precept.***
2. Consider Matthew 28:19. Jesus told His disciples to "Go." They now know what to do.
3. Consider 1 Corinthians 11:24. Jesus gave a command for the Lord's Supper, saying, "This do..."

Now, let's consider ***examples.*** This is where no direct statements exists, but God has shown us by the recorded actions that a certain thing is to be done (or not done). An example is no less binding than a direct statement or command. It is just another way God authorizes.

1. We are commanded to follow examples, Philippians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16-17.
2. It is important to understand that we are talking about ***approved*** examples. Some examples are "disapproved" and are not to be followed. A case in point is Peter's hypocrisy in Galatians 2:11-14.
3. It is also worth noting that we are talking ***apostolic examples.*** By this, we mean the actual practice of the church in the New Testament under the guidance of the apostles. The apostles knew the truth; they knew what to do, John 16:13.
4. An ***approved apostolic example*** can be illustrated by the case of the Lord's Supper in Acts 20:7. Here we have the example of a local congregation, under the watchful eye of an apostle, taking the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. There is no direct

statement or command in Scripture to partake of it on the first day of the week, but this example is just as binding as a command.

- Benjamin Lee