

Discovering Modern Direction In God's Ancient Book (2)

Introduction:

- A. In previous lessons, we have established that the Bible directs us in three basic ways:
 - 1. Direct command or precept
 - 2. Approved "apostolic" example
 - 3. Necessary inference or inescapable conclusion
- B. But as we continue to ask the question, "How does the Bible direct us?" it's important to realize that a distinction must be made between **general** and **specific** authority.

I. Two Kinds of Authority

- A. All authority is either:
 - 1. **General** – including any thing, method, or means of execution that comes within the class or order of the precept, example, or thing commanded. General authority **includes**.
 - 2. **Specific** – excluding every thing, method, or means of execution in the same order or class which is not particularly specified in the precept, example, or thing commanded. Specific authority **excludes**.
- B. The "law of exclusion" is not a principle just related to Biblical study.
 - 1. It simply says that the statement or command to do one thing authorizes only the doing of the thing specified.
 - 2. Some real life examples.

II. Expediencies

- A. An expedient is a suitable, profitable, or helpful way to accomplish an end.
- B. But, there are certain questions we should ask as we seek to accomplish those ends.
 - 1. "Is it lawful?"

 - 2. "Have we been given any specific instructions?"

 - 3. "Will it edify the church?"

 - 4. "Will it cause a fellow Christian to stumble?"

III. Examples of general and specific authority in action

Conclusion – the most basic issue is the answer to the question, "Is it authorized by God's Word?"