

THE NEED FOR BIBLE AUTHORITY

Introduction

- 1) **Authority** is necessary in every aspect of life – the rule of law in society and the home
 - a) Authorized standards in money, weights, measures, time, etc.
 - b) Accepted rules for driving, ball games, classroom conduct, workplace, etc.
 - c) Without standards of authority (rule of law), chaos will reign (Judg. 17:6)
- 2) Proper authority is just as necessary for what we do in religion (see Deut. 5:32-33; 1 Jn. 5:2-3)

I) **Two Sources of Law and Authority**

- A) **Two sources of law/revelation** – God or man (Matt. 16:16-17; Gal. 1:11-12)
 - 1) The will of God is found only in God’s revealed truth (1 Cor. 2:10-12)
- B) **Two sources of authority** – heaven or men (Matt. 21:25)
 - 1) Heaven’s authority is found only in God’s revealed truth (1 Thess. 4:1-2)
- C) The New Testament is God’s law and authority today (Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Thess. 2:15)

II) **Acting Without Lawful Authority**

- A) To act without lawful authority is lawlessness, or acting “without law” (Gk. *anomia*)
 - 1) Matthew 7:23 – “you who practice lawlessness”
 - 2) Titus 2:14 – “every lawless deed”
 - 3) 1 John 3:4 – “sin is lawlessness”

III) **Unlawful Standards of Authority in Religion**

- A) Religious leaders, preachers, scholars (Gal. 1:9)
- B) Creeds of men (Matt. 15:9)
- C) Majority rule (Ex. 23:2)
- D) Personal opinion (Deut. 12:8)
- E) Emotion/Zeal (Rom. 10:2-3)
- F) Sincerity (Matt. 7:22)
- G) Results achieved (Rom. 3:8)

IV) **Threats Against New Testament Authority (Col. 2:8)**

- A) **Liberalism** – we are not bound or restricted by a Bible “pattern”; we can teach and practice whatever we consider to be the most loving, fun, or socially acceptable
- B) **Relativism** – Bible study is subjective; we cannot and do not need to understand the Bible alike; each person or group has a particular viewpoint, and each viewpoint is equally valid
- C) **Progressivism** – old religious Bible beliefs and actions must adapt and change to fit the changing circumstances of modern times and the pressing needs for social change
- D) **Emotionalism** – what someone personally feels is right and lawful and gives them greater happiness is of greater importance than what the Bible says

V) **The Constant Need for Bible Authority**

- A) We must have Bible authority for all that we say and do – it is absolutely necessary to...
 - 1) Speak and act in the name of Jesus (Col. 3:17)
 - 2) Have unity in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 1:10)
 - 3) Enjoy the fellowship of God (2 Jn. 9)
 - 4) Enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21)

Conclusion

Do you have Bible authority for all you do and say in religion? (1 Pet. 4:11) Search the Scriptures to learn the will of God. May we be found faithful to His will and work!