How Scripture Authorizes

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INTRODUCTION

- We need to approach God's special revelation in the right way. As it serves as a standard of authority in our lives.
- No man made up the rules for understanding authoritative communication.
- They are just terms given to describe what is already there.

1 Generic and Specific Authority

Numbers 19:2; Colossians 3:16; Romans 6:4

- There are two kinds of authority. There is generic authority, and there is specific authority.
- All authority has generic and specific elements. The more generic it is, the more choices you have.
- He said red heifer. Anything else constitutes rebellion and disobedience.
- Generic authority includes expediencies. Doing things the best way to get those things done.
- Specific authority excludes any substitution.
- Baptism is a burial. Sprinkling or pouring does not constitute a burial.

2 The Bible Teaches Us by Way of Commands

1 John 5:3; 1 Timothy 4:11

- And this is the love of God that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- 1 Peter is noted for the many commands, specific commands in just five chapters.
- Do not be conformed to the former lusts, which were yours in your ignorance, but be holy in all your behavior as God is holy.

3 It Also Teaches Us by Way of Examples

1 Corinthians 4:16–17; Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:7–9

- But all examples are rooted in commands initially. That's where they come from. But the command may not have been recorded for us, simply the example.
- Brethren join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern that you have in us.
- When I was among you, I set an example as one who worked.
- And we understand God's desire for the local church in terms of the plurality of elders from the standpoint of example.

4 The Bible Also Teaches by Implication

Acts 11:18; Hebrews 7:14

- We must draw conclusions on the basis of inferences that the Scriptures make. The Scriptures imply things, and then we infer what they imply.
- And they should have inferred from what that statement implies that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.
- God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.
- For it is evident that our Lord has descended from Judah a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.

5 Not Every Command Involves Our Response to God

Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 11

- Not every command and not every example, and not every inference necessarily involves our response to God. And context determines this.
- There were some things commanded just to a specific audience for a specific time.
- Who's the audience? Who does this apply to? Is this meant to be universal for all time?
- This was for a limited time and for the purpose of confirming God's message in a time when revelation was still being dispensed.

6 We Must Respect the Silence of the Scripture

Hebrews 7:14

- Somebody said, Well, God didn't prohibit that. Well, what did he authorize?
- He said, priests descend from the tribe of Levi. Of the other tribes, he said nothing. Silence. Silence allows nothing.

THE CHALLENGE

There comes a time when the patience of God runs out. Seek the Lord while he may be found.

MY NOTES