



**Modern Expressions Regarding Authority**

- "We do not need authority for everything we do."
- "We do many things for which there is no authority."
- "Where does the Bible say not to?"

**• A Basic Bible Principle:**  
(Matthew 21:23; 1 Peter 4:11;  
cf. 2 John 9-11)

**Chain Of Command**

- ✦ **God. 1 Corinthians 15:27**
- ✦ **Christ. Matthew 28:18**
- ✦ **Apostles. 2 Corinthians 5:18**
- ✦ **Scriptures. Ephesians 3:3**

**Nature Of Scripture**

- ✦ **Inspired.**  
**1 Corinthians 2:7-13; John 16:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21**

**Nature Of Scripture**

- **Authoritative.**
  - O.T. bound as steadfast. (Hebrews 2:2)
  - Was not to be altered. (Jeremiah 10:23)
  - Punishment for those who violated it. (Leviticus 10:1-2)

**Nature Of Scripture**

• **Authoritative.**

- Jesus recognized “What is written.” (Matthew 4:4,6-7,10)
- In his teaching he appealed not to traditions, human opinions or emotions, but to the Scriptures. (John 5:39)

**Nature Of Scripture**

• **Authoritative.**

- Jesus today has all authority and we must respect that authority revealed through His apostles and prophets. (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11)
- Cannot go beyond. (2 John 9; Galatians 1:6-8)
- We must obey him. (Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:8-9)

**Nature Of Scripture**

• **All-Sufficient.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “Every scripture inspired of God (is) also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.”

2 Peter 1:3 “seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue.”

**Nature Of Scripture**

✦ **Understandable. Ephesians 3:3-5; cf. 5:17**

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:130 “The opening of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

**Nature Of Scripture**

✦ **Standard of Judgment. John 12:48**

**Divine Pattern**

✦ **Is there a pattern provided for the collective worship, work and organization of the church?**

2 Timothy 1:13 “Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

- “Our example is not being like the first century church ... We don't know what they did in the first century church.” (George Huff on Worship)

### Divine Pattern

- ✦ Do only the books – Matthew, Mark, Luke & John constitute the pattern?
- ✦ What was the purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles? **John 16:12-13**

### Divine Pattern

✦ **You cannot fully know or follow the will of Christ without the epistles!**

1 John 1:3 “that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you also, that ye also may have fellowship with us: yea, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

### Divine Pattern – Important Questions

- NOTE: Did not the first century church have the apostles and prophets?
- Did they not SPEAK by inspiration the same things they WROTE by inspiration?
- Did the brethren not have to learn and receive into their hearts the same understanding of Truth from the MOUTHS of the apostles that we learn from their PENS?

### Divine Pattern – Important Questions

• Is anyone affirming that there were basic differences in what God required of first century Christians through what the apostles SAID and what is required of us through what they WROTE?

(See 1 John 1:3)

### Divine Pattern

• They taught the same thing in every church.

• 1 Corinthians 4:17 “For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who shall put you in remembrance of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.”

• 1 Corinthians 7:17 “Only, as the Lord hath distributed to each man, as God hath called each, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all the churches.”