

Ashland Church of Christ 2007
Spreading the Good News

“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...” (MATTHEW 28:10)

What Do I Do? — Authority
How Does the Bible Authorize

Text: Colossians 3:17

Key Text: *Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

Introduction:

- 1) Consider the vast differences of opinion that people have concerning how the Bible should be interpreted.
- 2) It is interesting that people want to treat the Bible differently than they do other areas of life.
- 3) There are many different opinions on how the Bible authorizes today.
- 4) At some point, these differences must be hashed out.

I. Direct commands (statements).

A. Evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20), worship (John 4:24), Bible study (2Timothy 2:15).

B. This is perhaps the most obvious form of authority.

C. It is not ‘command only.’

1. 1Thessalonians 5:21.
2. 2Timothy 2:15.

II. Examples.

A. Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18), humility (John 13:1-17), cultural influence (1Corinthians 9:19-22).

B. This concept is still pretty obvious.

C. When is an example binding?

1. When it is backed up by a command.
2. Consider:
 - a. The Lord’s Supper’s time must be the first day of the week (Matthew 26:29; Acts 20:7).
 - b. One cup is not necessary (Luke 22:17).

III. Necessary inferences (forced conclusions).

A. Infant baptism is not necessary (Acts 16:31), attendance is necessary (Hebrews 10:25), elders are to be men (1Timothy 3:2).

B. This one is a bit more difficult to reason.

C. We must be careful not to go too far: Were there three wise men at the birth of Jesus (Matthew 2:1).

Conclusion:

1) What is not authoritative?

- a) Tradition (Mark 7:6-8).
- b) Men (Acts 5:29).
- c) Feelings (1John 3:20).

2) We must do all things by authority. *‘You cannot get any more aller than all!’* (Colossians 3:17).