

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:38

Store In My Heart Romans 14:23

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

As Paul deals with issues that were causing problems among the brethren in Rome, he gives us an important principle to consider. We can only have confidence in our decisions if we have a solid foundation to support them. Faith developed from study of God's Word is such a foundation.

If our actions are not according to our belief and trust in God and His Word, we cannot know that they are right. Every action we engage in must be based upon what we learn from the Word.

If we act upon our own initiative, we can only hope for the best. Only with assurance from God's revealed Word can we know that we are right. We must always act according to faith, lest we turn our self away from God.

The Matter Of Authority

Bill Crews

On the question of the necessity of authority for religious practices there are but two positions that one can take. Either we must have authority or we do not have to have authority for all that we do in religion. Any position in between would be ridiculous and impossible. If someone should insist that one must have authority for some things, but not for all things, by what standard could he possibly distinguish the things for which he must have authority from the things for which he does not need authority? And how could he condemn anything merely because it was unauthorized in the Scriptures?

May God pity the man who calls himself a gospel preacher and who makes such statements as: "Why we do many things for which we do not have authority"; and "We do not have to have authority for everything we do in religion." Such a preacher would have neither right nor grounds to condemn any of the religious practices around us which, though without authority, are not expressly forbidden in the Scriptures. On what basis would he show that instrumental music, infant baptism, choirs, missionary societies, quarterly or annual communion, etc., are wrong?

Authority falls into two categories: general and specific. Some things are specifically authorized: baptism, singing, Lord's Supper. Other things are authorized because they are embraced in and necessary to the performance of things specifically authorized: (Some things may be used as "aids" in carrying out a command as long as no Scriptural principle is violated); a baptistry, song books, containers. To say that one must have authority for all that he does in religion is a far cry



from saying that one must have specific authority for all that he does in religion. Some "gospel preachers" have offered this sort of quibble: "Why if one must have authority for everything, where did Noah get the authority for the tools he used in building the ark since God did not specify any tools." This is nothing more than a dodge, a smoke screen to cover up the fact that many churches today are practicing things for which they have no authority--either general or specific. Certainly Noah had authority in that tools were necessary to carry out the injunction to build the ark. Had God specified the tools, he would have been limited to what God specified.

Brethren, one must have authority for all that he does in religion -- either general authority or specific authority. If by direct statements, approved examples or necessary inference one cannot show authority for what he professes and practices religiously, he needs to revise his profession and amend his practice.

(This article fits well with today's lesson. Brother Crews gives us some good thoughts to ponder. Some of this will be covered in more detail as we continue lessons dealing with our work together in the local church. The attitude many have regarding authority for what we do and teach has caused most of the problems among brethren since the beginning of The Church. We must carefully consider all things in light of what God has authorized. As our lesson today reveals, the Word of God is our only source of authority. "Sounds good" and "Look at the results" are not valid authorization methods. DLH)

We may betray Christ by our "silence" as well as by our speech!

Knowledge is one thing that does not become "second-hand" when used.

It is pretty hard to convince anyone of your interest in the church by being absent.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Annette Gray is slowly recovering from her car crash.

Ruben Keisler will need surgery on his left elbow soon.

JoBeth Henderson is doing very well. Her last chemo treatment will be Tuesday May 26.

Malcolm & Marla Rigsby are in East Texas this weekend.

Tommy Robinson has about three weeks of 5 radiation treatments a week for the tumor in his right lung.

Leta Rivera is doing better.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 57** Wednesday @ 7 - **Revelation 19:7**