

## **Expedients** **Leviticus 10:1–3**

### **All Authority Either Specific or Generic**

Specific (Exclusive) clarified in Text - few questions

Generic (Inclusive) gives options - often troubling

Allows some choice and involves reasoning

Much difficulty from “Expedients”

Men ‘justify’ with “practiced as expediency”

“The end justifies the means”

Accomplishing good does NOT equal permissible

Results do not establish authority

(Fruit of the poisoned tree)

Scriptural expedient must be lawful and must aid in accomplishing God’s Law

Expediency involves choice within what God has authorized

### **Be Lawful**

Direct Statement, Approved Example, Necessary Conclusion - **1Corinthians 6:12; 10:23**

Cannot go beyond what is written - **2John 9-11; 2Corinthians 5:7; Romans 14:23**

Unlawful things cannot be expedient even if we think they help

Preacher, elder, church, creed not authority

Women preachers - **1Timothy 2:12**

Ox cart to move Ark of Covenant - **1Chronicles 13:7-10; 15:2**

Adding to or changing God’s Way is unlawful

Go beyond specified or authorized = add to Word, not aid obedience

Relies on human wisdom over God’s word

### **Not Specified**

No choice for man but obey or disobey

Gopher wood for ark - **Genesis 6:14,22; Hebrews 11:7**

Joinery, Tools, etc not specified thus fall under expedients

Ashes of a RED heifer - **Numbers 19:2,9**

Male lamb of first year, without blemish, as a sacrifice - **Exodus 12:5**

Singing - **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**

Two kinds - vocal; instrumental

Melody in heart - Pluck heart strings

Books, Slides, pitch pipe, Beat time, even Song leader complement/aid singing

Instrumental music not aid in ‘singing’ / ‘addition’ to command

It is not included in the scope of the command to sing

Be Baptized - **Acts 2:38**

Burial - **Romans 6:4**

Baptistery, garments, towels, waders, creek/river/pond are expedients

Sprinkling or pouring is a substitution/change thus unlawful and sinful

Elders - **Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1Peter 5:1-4**

Elders have oversight of the local church where they attend

Taking the responsibility to ‘oversee’ a group in another location would be adding to what God has authorized and thus cannot be an expedient, no matter how “efficient” it may be.

Church is the God authorized organization to preach the gospel - **1Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 4:12**

Missionary Society is not aid, it is additional organization to what God established

This in no way takes away the responsibility of individual to teach

## **Edify**

The purpose of all action is edification - **1Corinthians 10:23-33; 14:26**

To cause division does not edify

God's specific instruction may cause division as men refuse to obey

Preaching the word - **Acts 4:18-20; 5:29**

Demanding our choice to the point of division is wrong

Music, organizations, entertainment/physical well-being

## **Cannot Offend Conscience**

Rule governs in matters of expediency - **1Corinthians 10:32; Romans 14:13-23**

In matters specified we have no choice but to obey or disobey

Our liberty must not cause brother to sin

Eating of meats - **1Corinthians 8:7-13**

## **Lawful & Edifies**

Expediency gives choice within what is authorized, it is not authority within itself

Any Expedient must first be lawful and it must strengthen the church

DLH