

The Expression of Religious Authority

Matt. 21:32-37

Introduction:

- A. Let's assume that we believe that:
 - 1. The Bible is the word of God.
 - 2. God is sovereign with all authority.
 - 3. We must have authority from heaven to act in religion.
- B. We still need to ask, "How is that authority expressed to man?"

Discussion:

- I. It Is Expressed *Objectively*.**
 - A. Subjective claims are not enough (cf. Matt. 9:1-8).
 - B. Spiritual truth must always be proven objectively (cf. Heb. 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:15; "It is written...")
- II. It Is Expressed *Expressly*.**
 - A. Two views:
 - 1. Forbidden unless expressly authorized.
 - 2. Permitted unless expressly forbidden.
 - B. Biblical view - must be expressly authorized (cf. Lev. 10:1-2)
- III. It Is Expressed in *Commands, Examples and Necessary Inferences*.**
 - A. This is a self-evident principle.
 - 1. Recognized in secular law.
 - 2. Recognized in all kinds of authority: Civil, parental, schools, etc.
 - B. This is a divinely recognized principle — Jesus used all there.
 - 1. Command (Matt. 4:4).
 - 2. Example (Luke 4:23-27).
 - 3. Necessary inference (Matt. 22:31-33; cf. "Lid on the ark").
 - C. This is illustrated by Lord's supper.
 - 1. Command: "This do..." (Luke 22:19)
 - 2. Examples: "Upon the first day of the week when..." (Acts 20:7).
 - 3. Necessary Inference: Every necessarily inference, like Sabbath"
- IV. It Is Expressed in *Generic and Specific Forms*.**
 - A. The principle illustrated (Gen. 22:1-3; Heb. 7:14).
 - B. The principle applied: Gopher wood, sing, go, teach, etc.
- V. It Is Expressed in *Rights and Obligations*.**
 - A. Must do certain things (Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 10:25).
 - B. May do certain things (1 Cor. 9:1-6).

Conclusion:

- A. We must be able to give authority for our actions — for own benefit and others.
- B. We must not act in religion with divine authority (cf. Col. 3:17).