

## **THE BIBLE AUTHORIZES IN CERTAIN WAYS #1**

### **(John 4:24)**

#### **I. Declarative statements.**

- A. Notice Mark 16:16.
  - 1. This is not a command but has the force of one.
  - 2. This declarative statement puts an obligation on those who desire to be saved.
- B. Notice Matthew 7:21.
  - 1. There is no command here.
  - 2. However, we learn it takes more than saying, "Lord, Lord" to be saved.
  - 3. We must also do the will of the Father.
- C. Notice 1 John 1:7.
  - 1. Again, there is no command here.
  - 2. However, it is shown to us that we must walk in the light in order to have access to Jesus's blood.
- D. All of the beatitudes are simple declarations.
  - 1. The need to be all of these things is not in a command statement.
  - 2. But, we realize Jesus might as well have said you must be poor in spirit...
- E. We see that declarative statements furnish authority for action.

#### **II. Interrogative statements.**

- A. Genesis 3:9 - same as God commanding, "Adam, tell me where you are."
- B. Genesis 3:13 - posed as a question but really a command to tell Him what she had done.
- C. 1Kings 18:21 - Elijah asked this not to obtain information but to demand the fence straddlers choose a side.
- D. Acts 22:16 - Ananias was not wanting information, but urging Saul to action.
- E. 1 Corinthians 6:7 has the force of a command in question form.
- F. Sometimes God makes demands on us by the questions He asks through His word.

#### **III. Imperative statements.**

- A. Strictly speaking, commands fall under this category.
- B. Matthew 5:12; 5:25; 5:40.
- C. Acts 10:48 - don't know what words Peter used to command them, but probably similar to Acts 2:38.
- D. All of these aren't declarations or questions, they are commands.
- E. Philippians 4:4 is a command.
- F. Matthew 7:13 is a command.
- G. It is interesting to note that many of the things we believe and practice as Christians are authorized in more than 1 kind of direct statement.
  - 1. Baptism:

- a. Mark 16:16 - declarative statement.
  - b. Acts 2:38 - imperative statement.
  - c. Romans 6:3 - interrogative statement.
2. Love of brethren.
- a. Hebrews 13:1 - imperative statement.
  - b. 1 John 3:14 - declarative statement.
  - c. 1 John 3:17 - interrogative statement.

**IV. Hortatory statements.**

- A. You might wonder what in the world this is.
- B. This is a statement of exhortation - the writer is exhorting his readers to do some act.
  - 1. Hebrews 6:1.
  - 2. Hebrews 10:19-25.
- C. The Hebrews writer is exhorting his readers to greater spiritual heights - but really, he is commanding them to do so.

From an article by Wayne Jackson.