

THE BIBLE AUTHORIZES IN CERTAIN WAYS (PT 2)

I. The right question.

- A. Many times we have heard or asked, when is an example binding?
- B. This may be the wrong question to ask according to the definition of example - that which is to be followed or imitated; a pattern.
 - 1. According to definition, an example is always binding.
 - 2. If it is an example, it is binding.
- C. The right question, according to Roy Deaver, and it makes sense, is, When does the Bible account of an action constitute an example for people living today?
- D. For instance, 3 things happened the night before death of Christ:
 - 1. Observed Passover feast;
 - 2. Instituted Lord's Supper;
 - 3. And washed the disciples feet (Notice John 13:14-15).
- E. As Christians, we observe the Lord's Supper but not the Passover and we don't wash feet - why not?
- F. Not only that, Jesus met in an upper room to establish it & brethren at Troas met in an upper room with many lights.
- G. As we go thru the next points, we intend to show why some things are done and some are not done.

II. Two necessary aspects to keep in mind.

- A. God's basic authority principle.
 - 1. God's will for mankind is the New Testament.
 - a. Jesus' blood shed for it (Matthew 26:28).
 - b. Allows Him to be mediator of New Testament (Hebrews 9:15).
 - 2. Colossians 3:17 - by the authority of Christ.
 - 3. We are to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17).
 - a. To please God we must walk by that which comes from His word.
 - b. If there is no word there can be no faith.
 - 4. We cannot go beyond what is written (2 John 9), cannot take from what is written (Revelation 22:18-19), and cannot change what is written (Galatians 1:6-9).
 - 5. This is God's authority principle.
- B. There are significant distinctions that must be made.
 - 1. We must know the difference between Old Testament & New Testament.
 - 2. Must know that God has dealt with man in 3 distinct systems of religion, & we live in the 3rd - Christian system.
 - 3. Must carefully distinguish between faith & opinion.
 - 4. Must discern between temporary and permanent.
 - 5. Must discern between circumstances & conditions.
 - 6. We must discern between a principle and the means by which that

principle is set out.

7. We must respect the difference between human custom and divine law.

III. **What do you mean by binding?**

- A. Some things are binding in the sense that they must be done.
 1. There is nothing optional about these things.
 2. The fact that it is demanded is made clear by taking into account all the teaching on this subject in the Bible.
- B. Some things are binding in the sense that they may be done (they may be done but may be left undone).
- C. Let's look at the Lord's Supper to illustrate both of these.
 1. I am commanded to observe the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
 2. I am commanded to observe it on 1st day of week by example and command (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 3. I am authorized, but not commanded, to partake of it in an upper room with many lights.
 - a. This is binding in the sense that I am allowed to do it or not do it.
 - b. I learn from other passages that the place is not important (John 4:19-21) - also we are told the Corinthians partook but not where.
- D. Let's look at giving to illustrate this.
 1. We are commanded to give as we have been prospered (this is an obligation).
 2. Do you remember 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - Macedonians gave beyond their power.
 - a. We are commanded to give.
 - b. We are authorized, but not commanded, to give beyond what we have been prospered.
- E. The New Testament teaches we are to go.
 1. Paul went by ship.
 2. Is this the only way we are to go?
 3. We see some walking.
- F. We must understand that there are classifications of actions.
 1. Actions that were sinful.
 2. Actions that were temporary and demanded - desire earnestly spiritual gifts.
 3. Temporary and optional - Acts 5:42 - we don't have a temple to go to & they could have gone elsewhere.
 4. Permanent and demanded - Romans 6:3-4.
 5. Permanent and optional - giving beyond their power.
- G. Must remember all determinations about a topic are to include all the teaching the Bible gives on the subject.

IV. **The Lord's Supper, the Passover and washing feet.**

- A. We don't observe Passover or wash feet - why only the Lord's Supper?

- B. Passover was related to Judaism - 2nd religious system.
- C. The Thurs night meeting was demanded under Old Testament. - must distinguish between the Lord's Supper itself and the circumstances under which it was instituted.
- D. The early church never observed the Passover or partook of the Lord's Supper on any other day than the 1st day of week.
- E. The washing of feet was not an act of worship but a teaching tool used by the Lord to instruct His disciples to be humble and serve others - early church never washed feet as an act of worship.
- F. By using the principles discussed in this sermon, we see that we are only to partake of the Lord's Supper, not the Passover or washing of feet.

From an article by Wayne Jackson.