

ESTABLISHING BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- I. We must have authority for all we do in religion.
 - A. Prove all things is a command. I Thes 5:21
 - B. Early church continued in the apostle's doctrine. Acts 2:42
 - C. Must hold fast the truth. 2 Tim 1:13

- II. Must establish authority by using the bible as our guide.
 - A. God's word is good for perfection. 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - B. God's law is perfect. Jas 1:25, Jn 17:17

- III. How to test if a thing is in accord with God's word. Ask, "Is it . . ."
 - A. **LAWFUL** - does it violate God's word in any way?
 - B. **LAWFULLY EXPEDIENT** - some things may seem good but violate God's law. ex. sunday school, individual cups seem a good idea but violate law.
 - C. **MATTER OF LIBERTY OR INDIFFERENCE** - liberties may never be made law. ex. order of worship can't be enforced but neither should we violate another's conscience who believes a certain order is needed.
 - D. **A VIOLATION OF CONSCIENCE** - in matters of liberty we should seek to maintain peace even for the "weaker brother." A liberty can never be right if it violates another's conscience. Note that we are talking about matters of liberty and not matters of law. Law may never be violated even in the face of conscience. Law must take precedent.
 - E. **A VIOLATION OF CONSISTENCY** - ex. if cups are wrong so is mechanical instruments of music. They both are an addition. We must be consistent and if one addition is wrong, all are wrong.
 - F. **A VIOLATION OF TYPES AND SHADOWS.** ex. the Passover is a type of the Lord's Supper. One lamb = one loaf per house.

Conclusion:

Biblical authority must be maintained in all things. What is not from a "thus saith the Lord" can not be included in our worship. We sincerely ask those dabbling in digression to seriously consider these things. The thoughts in this outline I own mainly to Bro. Don McCord who is a wonderful example for the brotherhood in preaching and in living.