

**Bible Authority in the Church**  
**Col 3:16-17**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how we find Bible Authority.

Intro: 1. A standard is needed in religion.

A. What is a standard?

1. Definition of standard – “something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality” (Merriam-Webster.com)
2. In order to know what we are doing or following is right we must measure or compare it to the standard.

I. How do we find Bible authority for what the church does today?

A. Direct Statements

1. Declarative Statement – A Statement of fact

a. Mark 16:16

i. Facts: One must believe & be baptized to be saved.

2. Conditional Statements – A statement of conditions

a. Col 3:1

i. Condition: One must be “raised with Christ” to be able to “seek those things which are above”

3. Mandatory (Command) – A statement that cannot be countered

a. Matthew 7:21

i. Only way to heaven is doing the will of God; being obedient (Mk 12:30, Jn 14:15)

B. Example

1. Definition of the word “example” – one that serves as a pattern to be imitated or not to be imitated

2. There are two forms of binding or authorization through example by God.

a. Binding Examples – examples that must be followed

i. The Lord’s Supper

1. We are commanded to partake of it (1 Cor 11:24-25)

2. Example demands that we partake on the first day of every week.

a. We know they church was meeting every first day of the week (1 Cor 16:2)

b. We also know they were partaking of the Lord’s Supper each first day of the week (1 Cor 11:20; Acts 20:7).

c. Thus we are to partake of the Lord’s supper every first day of the week.

b. Non-Binding Examples

1. The early church partook of the Lord’s supper in the “upper room” with “many lights or lamps.”

2. Why do we not “have” to be in an upper room with “many lamps?”

ii. Because we see the church partaking the Lord’s Supper in different rooms where lamps were not necessarily needed

**1. Acts 2:42,46**

### C. Implication

- a. Inferring is different than assuming.
  - i. Acts 16:15
    1. Many assume Lydia was married.
    2. Many assume therefore she they had children.
    3. Many assume then some of these children were infants.
    4. Many assume some of the infants were baptized then.
    5. It is reasoned then that infant baptism is authorized.
      - a. This is untrue as a person must first “receive” the word of God (Acts 2:41).
- b. We know Baptism is a requirement by God.
  - i. Why? Because God does not require an action for salvation for one group of people and not require it for a different group of people who are under the same Law (**Rom 2:11**).
    1. There for those who were baptized in order to have the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:37-38**).
    2. The same would be required of anyone else.
    3. Those who were baptized were added to the body of Christ at baptism (**Gal 3:26-27**).
      - a. **Therefore all who are baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:37-38) are also at the same time added to the body of Christ (Gal 3:26-27). This would apply to all or else God would be showing partiality (Rom 2:11).**

### D. Expedience

- a. Expedience defined – “a means of achieving a particular end”
  - i. **There is no expedience where there is no advantage.**
    - a. **If there is not biblical advantage, just desire, there can be no authority for a matter.**
    - b. **Expedience is always in harmony with the scriptures, not in contradiction to it.**
      - i. **Partaking of the Lord’s supper – before the sermon or after? Either time is acceptable.**
      - ii. **Partaking of the Lord’s supper – on a Saturday afternoon or evening?**
        1. **This is not the first day of the week, thus its not acceptable to God.**
    - c. **Are songbooks an expedient?**
      - i. **One is able to sing the correct words and sing the same exact words as the rest of the congregation.**
      - ii. **Other examples could be given.**
    - d. **An aide helps expedite an action it does not change an action or add to the Biblical pattern, nor does it contradict the pattern.**

## II. Lessons for Us Today

- A. God’s Word provides the pattern to be followed.
  1. **When we follow the form discussed we can see clearly the pattern God has laid out in**

**His Word.**

**2. It should be our desire to follow the pattern found in the New Testament so that we can know that we are doing what is pleasing to God.**

B. God's pattern eliminates possible problems

1. God's pattern eliminates man's emotions in regards to what is right or wrong

**(Jer 32:35)**

2. Men may be sincere, most importantly however, man's actions must be right.

a. Sincerity cannot be our guide, learn a lesson from Uzzah **(2 Sam 6:6-9a)**

Application & Conclusion:

1. God's way is the only way that matters.

2. We must be humble enough to follow God's pattern if we are to be pleasing to Him.

3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9