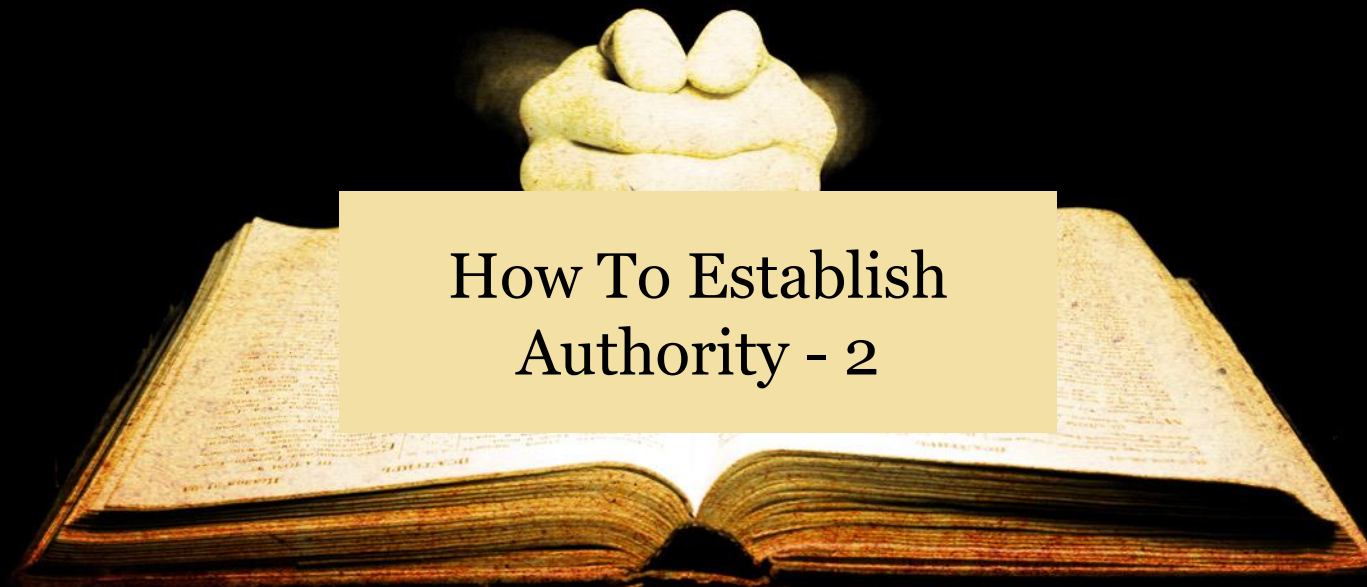


Communicating with God (33-2)

A study of prayer and Bible study



How To Establish
Authority - 2

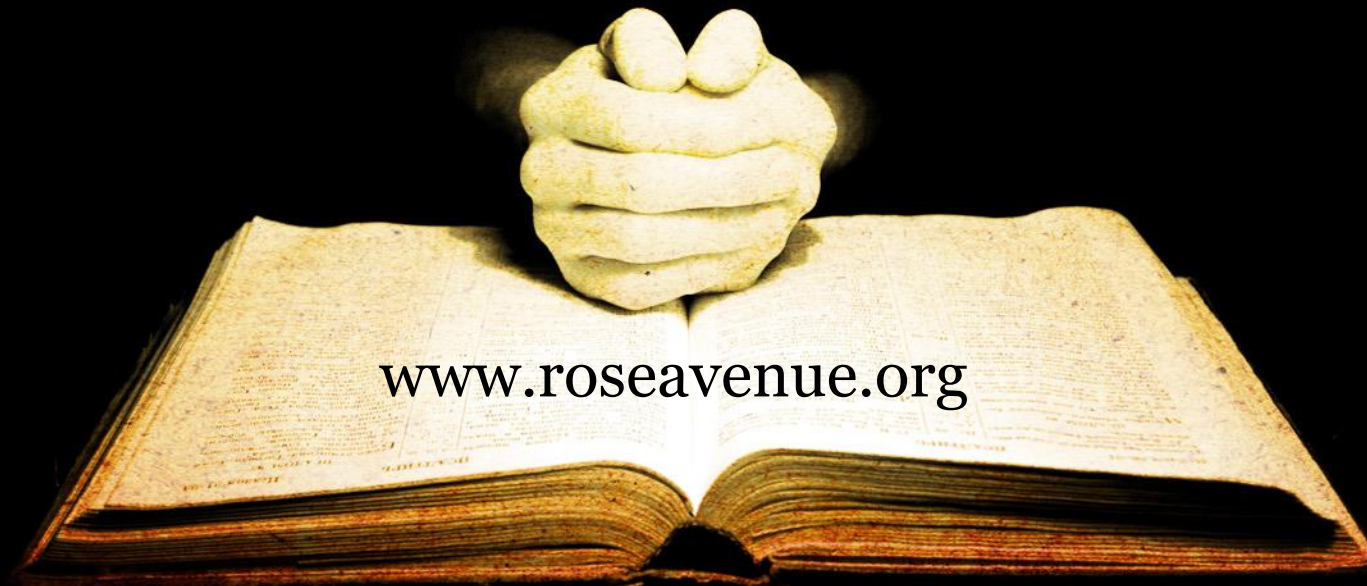


Studying the Bible

- Continuing our series about Bible study, we have begun a brief study of Authority.
- Currently we are examining authority.
- Today, we continue our study of how we establish authority.

Bible study (5)

HOW to Establish Authority - 2



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Communicating with God:
A study of Prayer & Bible Study
Our 2024 Theme





How Do We Communicate?

- God also created man with the ability to communicate - with one another and with Him.
- He gave us the ability to understand Him and His will
- He has revealed who He is to us and His will -
1 Corinthians 2:11-13
- The noted the way we determine His will is by the same principles we use to communicate with one another.



How Do We Communicate?

- There are 3 ways God communicates with us through His word
- He tells us things directly (commands, statements)
- He shows us with examples
- He implies what is expected, desiring that we reason and study to determine His will.
HE wants us to THINK!
- In so doing, His communication is timeless!
Principles.

A person wearing a light blue button-down shirt is holding an open book with both hands. The book is open to a page with text, and the person's hands are visible at the edges of the pages. The background is dark and out of focus.

How Do We Communicate?

- These are the same 3 ways we communicate with each other
- We tell others what we want - straight forward
- We show what we want and HOW to do something
- We imply what is expected to be understood, by what we say and what we show.

A person's hands are visible at the top of the frame, holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- Consider **direct statement or command**
- **Mark 16:16** - what to do to be saved
- **Matthew 22:37-39** - love God and love your neighbor
- **Ephesians 4:25-32** - standards about how to treat each other
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - consider, exhort, attend
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6** - the church to withdraw (for the sake of purity)

A person's hands are visible at the top of the frame, holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- Consider approved example
- **Matthew 16:24**, “Follow Me”
- **Philippians 2:5, 3:17, 4:9** - things learned, received, heard and saw, “these do” (imperative).
- **Luke 10:30-37** - “go and do likewise”
- **John 13:15** - serve others (not a ritual)
- **2 Corinthians 8:1** - the churches of Macedonia

A person's hands are visible at the top of the frame, holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- Consider necessary inference
- **Acts 17:1-4**, Paul “reasoned with them from the scriptures”
- **Hebrews 5:14** - solid food for the mature who “by reason of use” discern good and evil
- **Matthew 16:5-12** - Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees... He expected them to understand!

A person's hands are visible at the top of the frame, holding an open Bible. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- Consider **John 13:34-35**
- Jesus gave a **command**, “love one another.”
- “As I have loved you”, Jesus appealed to His own **example**
- “By this all will know that you are my disciples” - **implied** that their proper example would elicit a proper response. Also implied, it is a standard the world can and would use to judge (consistency).



Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- Consider **Acts 10** – Peter and Cornelius, the first Gentile convert. Concerning Peter’s vision:
- **Example – Ac. 10:11-12**, Peter’s vision of a sheet lowered will all sorts of animals
- **Command - Acts 10:15, 20**, “What I have made clean...”
“Go with them, doubting nothing”
- **Implication, conclusion** – the actions of Peter imply his conclusions, **Acts 10:28, 34-35**



Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The 3 ways applied to Bible authority.
- In **Acts 15** – we find a gathering of parties to determine if Gentiles had to be circumcised (follow parts of the Law of Moses. They go to Jerusalem to address the problem (**15:1-5**))
- **15:7-11**, Peter recalls the conversion of Cornelius, an example. He concluded that the yoke of the LOM was NOT part of God’s plan of redemption. Note **vs. 11** – *“we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”*



Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The 3 ways applied to Bible authority - **Acts 15**
- **15:12** – Paul and Barnabas discussed their first missionary journey and the success among Gentiles. NEVER was the command to be circumcised taught or expected. **It was an approved example.**
- **15:13-21**, James put all the discussion together and add to it a prophecy from **Amos 9:11-12** which pointed to YHWH's intent to include the Gentiles. He appealed to **statement (command).**
Vs. 19 - “*therefore I judge...*” implied conclusion



Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The 3 ways applied to Bible authority - **Acts 15**
- **15:22-29** – there was UNITY based upon all the facts among the apostles & elders. They draft a letter to be sent to Antioch. In that letter we find:
 - **15:24**, *“to whom we gave no such commandment”*
 - **15:25-27**, to verified the **examples** of Paul and Barnabas.
 - **15:28**, *“it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden...”* **implied conclusion.** NOTE they attributed this to God (H.S.).



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning the Lord's Supper
- Commanded - **Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26ff.** (NOTE: The gospel account is both an **example** and **command, statement**).
- An **example** - **Acts 20:7** - WHEN did they partake? On "first day of the week" (Sunday). The **ONLY example** in scripture of WHEN they partook (why mentioned?)
- **Implication** - **Acts 20:7**, how often? How often is there a "first day"? Note the context - **Acts 20:6-7**, "when the disciples came together to break bread..." Consider also **1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 11:20** - it was done regularly



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning the Lord's Supper
- This is why we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday and why we use unleavened bread and "fruit of the vine" - the elements that represented the body and blood of Jesus.
- WHY is this **example** binding? (Why not Tuesday?)
 - It is a POSITIVE example we KNOW God approves of.
 - It is the ONLY positive example we can verify
 - Since He has shown us WHEN it was done, that ought to settle the matter
 - There is NO further information (said, shown or implied) about any other day
 - We must respect His boundaries - **1 Corinthians 4:6**



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning baptism for salvation
- Commanded - **Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16, 1 Peter 3:21**,
Written as a statement with the effect of a command
- Examples - **Acts** has many examples:
 - 2:41** - 3000;
 - 8:12-13** - Samaritans, Simon;
 - 8:38-39** - Eunuch of Ethiopia;
 - 9:17-18 (22:16)** - Paul;
 - 10:47-48** - Cornelius;
 - 16:31-33** - the Philippian jailer, etc.



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning baptism for salvation
- Examples - immersion - **Acts 8:38-39, Romans 6:3-4**, βαπτίζω “baptize” means to dip, submerge
- Implication - **1 Peter 3:21** - an act of faith (see also **Acts 16:30-33**).
Implied - water baptism (**vs. 20, Ac 22:16**).



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning baptism for salvation
- **Implied** - mature believers need to be baptized (not infants).
- But what about “household”? - **Acts 16:15, 34**
 - There is nothing in the text to tell, show or imply that infants were there (an assumption).
 - Or the term could be used accommodatively of those who chose to be baptized
 - Infants INCAPABLE of believing
 - Every VERIFIED example was a mature believer.



Why is this relevant?

- Understanding authority will impact HOW we approach scripture - **1 Corinthians 4:6** - respect its boundaries
- Understanding authority will affect HOW we worship God (**John 4:24, cf. 1 Corinthians 14:15**).
- The purity of doctrine, including salvation, depends upon HOW we apply what is taught.
- The way we live our lives is determined by CENI
- What we do as a church is established by these same standards (and can unite us - **cf. Philippians 2:2**)

As previously noted, much of our religious division is the result of a failure to properly understand HOW we establish authority.

Many mock CENI (even some of our brethren). But to such I simply ask: IS there another genuine way to establish authority? And if so, please let me know what it is.

BUT do so without: 1) telling me; 2) showing me; or 3) implying what is meant!

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book with both hands. The book is open to a page with some text, and the person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the book and the person's hands.

Will you respect God's
boundaries in
everything you do?

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a blue button-down shirt, holding an open book. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the frame, holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. The text "Let us pray!" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Let us pray!

