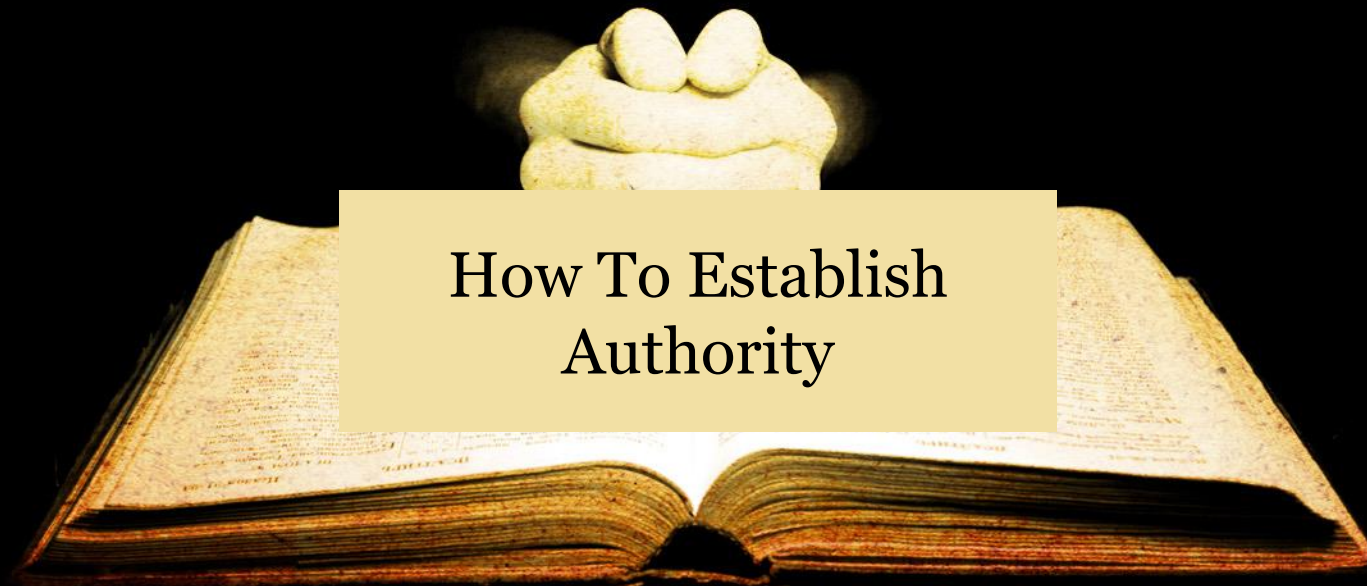


Communicating with God (33)

A study of prayer and Bible study



How To Establish
Authority

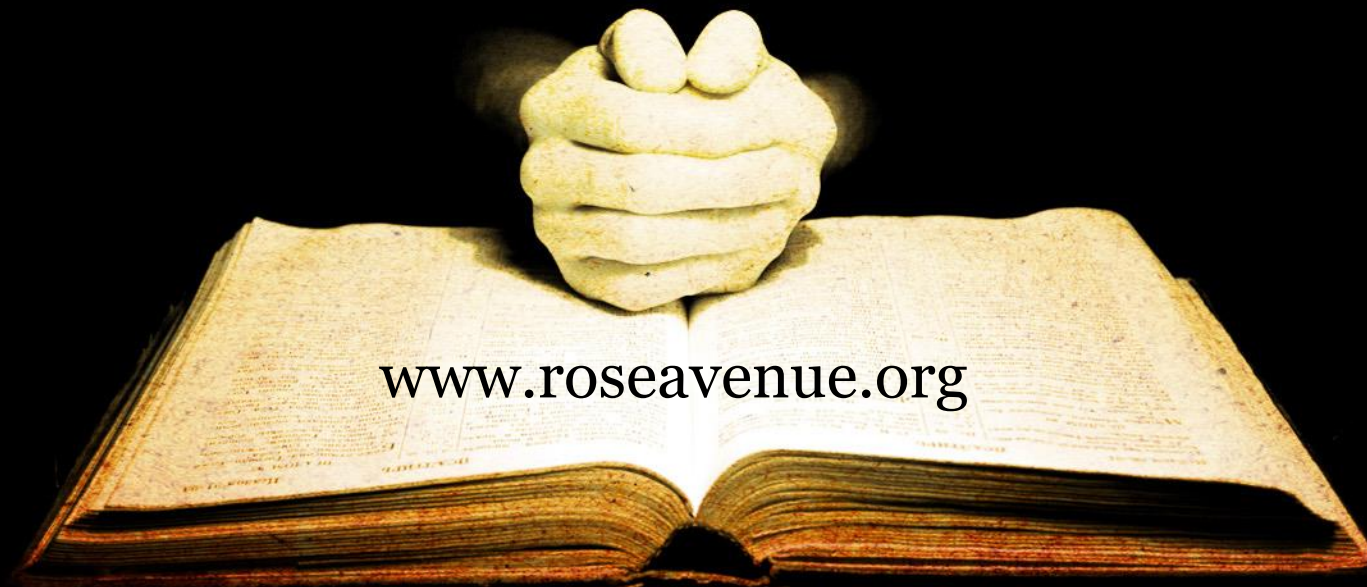


Studying the Bible

- Continuing our series about Bible study, we have begun a brief study of Authority.
- Last week we began with a lesson about why we need authority.
- Today, we will address HOW to establish authority.
- Next we will note some other principles related to authority. Then a lesson dealing with silence.

Bible study (5)

HOW to Establish Authority



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





How Do We Communicate?

- God created man as the pinnacle of His creation.
Genesis 1:26-27 - He is made in the image of God.
- What makes man unique?
 - Ability to think and reason
 - A sense of morality
 - Eternity in our hearts
 - Ability to invent, create and improve things
 - Our capacity to appreciate beauty
 - Our desire for preservation



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
- We can seek Him - **Acts 17:26-27, Isaiah 55:6, Hebrews 11:6, etc.**
- He has revealed who He is to us - **1 Corinthians 2:11-13**
- The way He has communicated with us is done by the same principles that we 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's hands are visible, holding an open book. The person is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

How Do We Communicate?

- There are 3 ways we communicate with each other
- Whether speaking of family, our jobs, our society and laws these same three ways convey our intents (whether spoken or written)
- 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.

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How Do We Communicate?

- There are 3 ways we communicate with each other
- Consider when one is hired for a job.
- He is given **direct instructions** - his job description, rules, etc.
- He will likely be **shown** by someone (authorized) how to do our job
- There are **implied** expectations - based on all the information we have been told and shown and logically putting things together.
- NOTE: A danger is to **ASSUME** that something is acceptable without some type of communication.

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
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - pray without ceasing
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6** - the church to withdraw
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** - consider, exhort, attend

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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”
- **James 5:16-18** - pray, Elijah an example
- **John 13:15** - serve others (not a ritual)
- **2 Corinthians 8:1** - the churches of Macedonia

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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”
- **Matthew 19:3-6** - concerning MDR, God’s intended conclusion - marriage is for life! Do NOT let man separate!
- **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, focusing attention on the text.

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 account of the first Gentile convert. Both Cornelius and Peter have visions, etc.
- **Command** - **Acts 10:15, 20**, “What I have made clean...”
“Go with them, doubting nothing”
- **Example** – **Ac. 10:11-12**, Peter’s vision of a sheet lowered with all sorts of animals
- **Implication, conclusion** – the actions of Peter imply his conclusions, **Acts 10:28**, also **23, 45, 11:12**;
Consider also **Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, etc.**

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Establishing Authority with the Bible

- The same 3 ways are applied to Bible authority.
- In **Acts 11** – when asked why he went to a Gentile, Peter recounts all the events previously discussed
- **Acts 11:18**, they concluded, “God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”



Establishing Authority - application

- Concerning the Lord's Supper
- Commanded - **Matthew 26:26-29**, **1 Corinthians 11:23-26ff.**
- An example - **Acts 20:7** - WHEN did they partake? On “first day of the week” (Sunday). The ONLY example in scripture of WHEN.
- 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** - giving.



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
 - Implication - **1 Peter 3:21** - an act of faith (see also **Acts 16:30-33**).
- Implied - water (**vs. 20, Ac 22:16**).
- Immersion - **Acts 8:38-39**, the word “baptizo” means to dip, submerge, **Romans 6:3-4**, etc..



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 noted last week, 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 held horizontally, and the pages are visible. The lighting is soft, and the background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the book. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

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!

