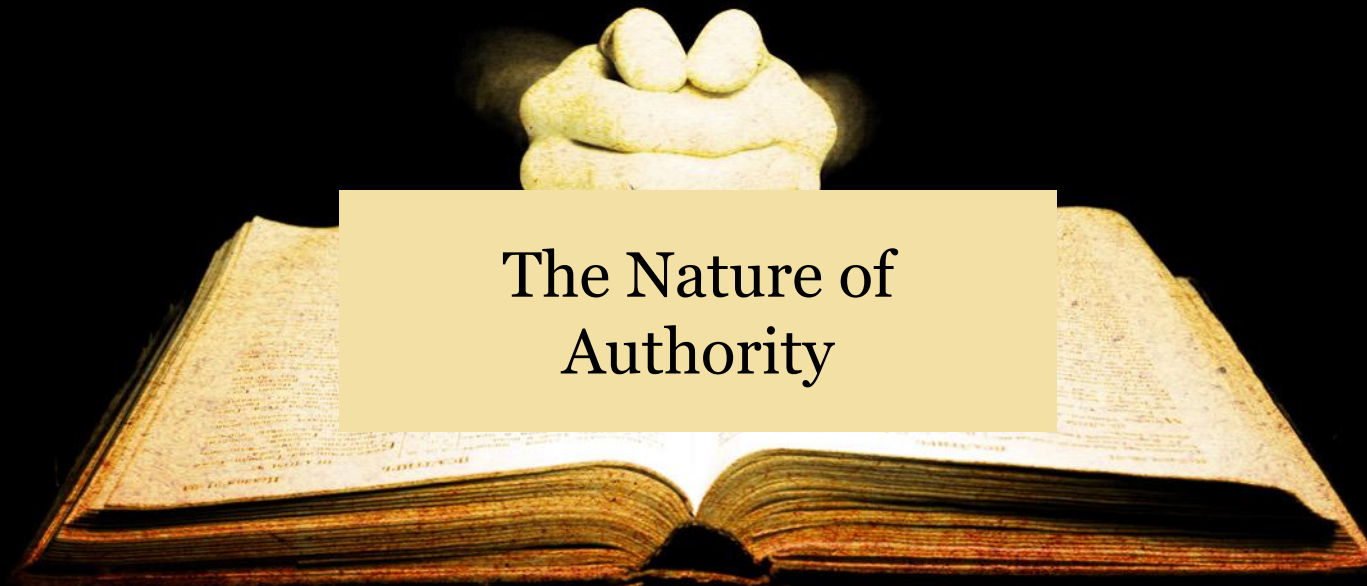


Communicating with God (34)

A study of prayer and Bible study



The Nature of
Authority

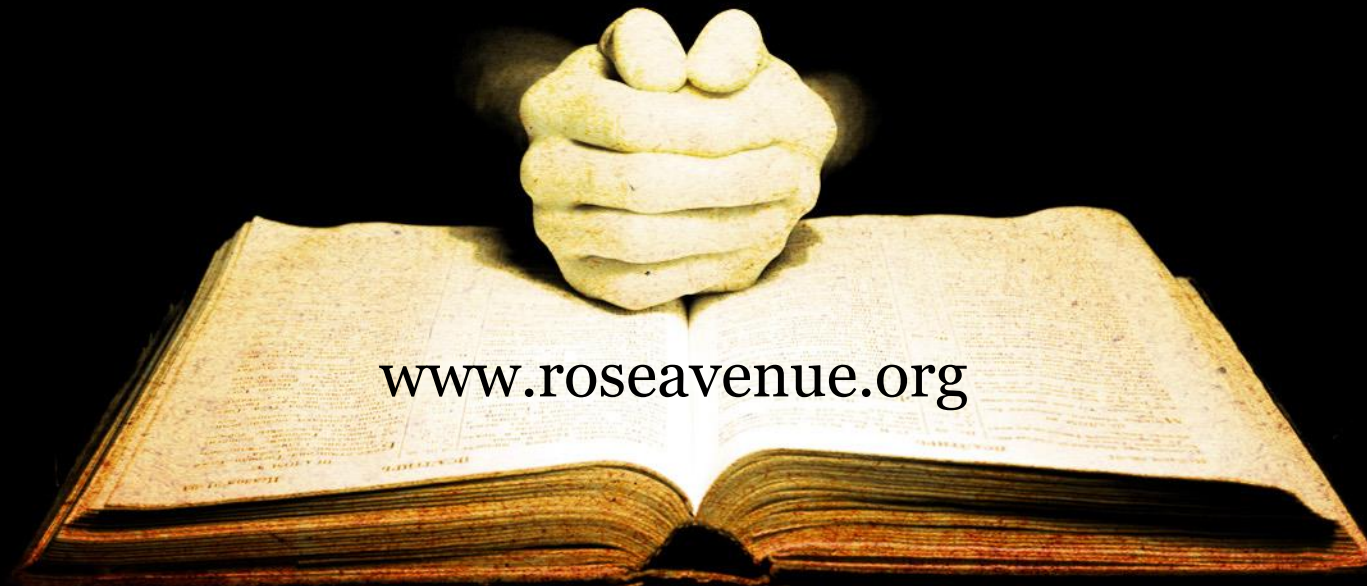
Studying the Bible



- Continuing our series about Bible study, we have begun a brief study of Authority.
- We have established what authority is (permission) and why we need authority. We have also noted the 3 ways authority is established – command/statement, example, necessary inference (say it/show it/infer it)
- Today, we want to address the nature of our authority.

Bible study (6)

The Nature of Authority Specific or General



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



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.

The Nature of Communication

- NOTE: This is not some formula preachers invented to justify what they do and how they do it. We are looking at principles of communication and logic (principles of reasoning we use in our conversation to validate the truthfulness of something) that we use every day.

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.

The Nature of Communication

- In determining what we do, there are ALWAYS boundaries - **1 Corinthians 4:6**
- Virtually every command limits us in some way. BUT there are also details left to our discretion. Depending on HOW specific the instructions are, the amount of liberty (freedom to choose) you have is impacted.
- These boundaries are just as important as the specific commands they are built upon.



The Nature of Communication

- Consider the construction of a building
- Plans usually begin with a blueprint. That blueprint becomes the **STANDARD**. It is often **SPECIFIC** as to what is wanted (number of rooms, where they are, how big, etc.).
Whatever is **specified MUST** be followed, or the finished product will be different. In construction, some of these standards are **VERY** exact!
- By its nature, what is **specified EXCLUDES** anything outside of the specifics. E.g., A blueprint for a 10-room house with 3 bedrooms. The contractor cannot decide to make it 4 bedrooms (or 2). Specifics **LIMIT** options.

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.

The Nature of Communication

- Consider the construction of a building
- **Generic** - While the blueprints limit, there are usually details left to the **discretion** of the builder and/or buyer. **E.g., house color, type of flooring, etc.** (NOTE: When these are determined by the buyer - they become **specific**).
- What tools are to be used (how) to construct the house are up to the builder (**general**), as long as he gets the job done right.

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.

The Nature of Communication

- “Go get some bread”
- **Generic** - You are preparing lunch and need bread. You tell your child, “Go get me some bread”.
- The type of bread (unless **implied** by previous **example**), brand, where to get it, the route he takes to get there, mode of transportation, (etc.) have all been left up to the **discretion** of the one sent.
- He returns with a loaf of bread, he has complied with the communication.
- **NOTE:** If he comes back with bread AND candy, chips and soda - did he really follow your instructions?

A person in a light blue shirt is holding an open book, looking down at it. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Nature of Communication

- “Go get some bread”
- **Specific** - Same scenario, but you give him the keys to your Nissan Altima and tell him, “Go to Walmart and get a loaf of Nature’s Own wheat sandwich bread”
- You have **limited** his options (including **implying** which car you want him to take). He may still choose which Walmart to go to, what direction to take, etc. But to comply, he must respect **EVERY specified** detail, or he has not obeyed the instructions.



Specific Authority

- When God sets boundaries, we must respect them!
- **Joshua 1:7-8** - ... do not turn to the right hand or left
- **1 Corinthians 4:6** - ... that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written...
- **Deuteronomy 12:32** - Do not add to or take away
- **Revelation 22:18-19** - Do not add to or take away



Specific Authority

- Biblical examples
- **Exodus 25-28** - priestly garments & the tabernacle.
25:40 - “according to the pattern”
- **Genesis 6:14-16** - Noah, instructed to build an ark - “gopher wood”, 300x50x30 cubits (450ft X 75ft X 45ft), 3 stories, 1 door and window, etc.
- **Numbers 20:7-11** - Moses told to speak to the rock
- **2 Kings 5:10-14** - Naaman told to dip in the Jordan 7 times to be healed of his leprosy.
- **John 9:7** - blind man told to wash in pool of Siloam



Specific Authority

- Making application
- **Matthew 28:19** - Go and make disciples. Specified - “go” (a command). What are we doing? Making disciples (not solving social ills or hunger, etc.) How? Baptizing them and teaching them
- **Ephesians 5:19** - we are commanded to sing to one another. Singing specified, **excludes** instruments
(**Cf. Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:15, etc.**)



Specific Authority

- Making application
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-25** - Lord's Supper (**Matthew 26:26-29**). Includes bread (unleavened - **cf. Exodus 12:19**) and "fruit of the vine" (grape juice).
- **Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21** - Baptism now saves us. We NEED to be baptized. Immersion is **implied**.
- **Acts 20:7** - we partake of the Lord's Supper, "on the first day of the week". The day is **specified**. There is nothing to indicate anything different.



Generic Authority

- When God is not specific, we have discretion as to HOW we do something. Generic authority is inclusive.
- **Genesis 6:14-16** - What tools could he use? Where could he get the wood? How to provide access from floor to floor (ladders, ramps, pulleys), etc.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - “Go” - what mode do we use. “Make disciples” - what method can we use to teach? Public assemblies, “house to house”, oral or written, etc.
NOTE: There are limits, based on other texts and examples.



Generic Authority

- Some examples for us
- **Ephesians 5:19** - commanded to sing (not play).
But what type of singing not specified - unison, 4-part harmony, responsive, fast or slow, contemporary or classic, etc.
How many songs and when?
Presented? Memory, books, projected, etc.
All of these are left to our discretion.
- Whatever we decide, we are STILL fulfilling the command AND respecting the boundaries of the texts.



Generic Authority

- Some examples for us
- **Matthew 28:19** - “Go” - we can use a car, airplane, etc. (even though they did not exist in the 1st century). We are still “going”.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** - “teach” - publicly or privately, via internet, written or spoken, live or recorded, correspondence courses, etc. Public or private classes.



Generic Authority

- **Observations**
- Generic authority is ALWAYS based upon a specified command, and deals with unspecified elements related to that command.
- It is NOT a blank check to do whatever we want provided something is not specified. Boundaries!
- Silence is NOT generic authority! (Next week)

God in His word has established boundaries. We MUST respect these - both what He says and what he does not say!

It is my hope we can see that such is NOT a man-made tradition, but practical application of how we communicate.

If we truly desire to please God, we are going to respect Him and His boundaries -

Hebrews 12:28-29

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 is centered in the upper half 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.

Let us pray!

