

Communicating with God (36)

A study of prayer and Bible study



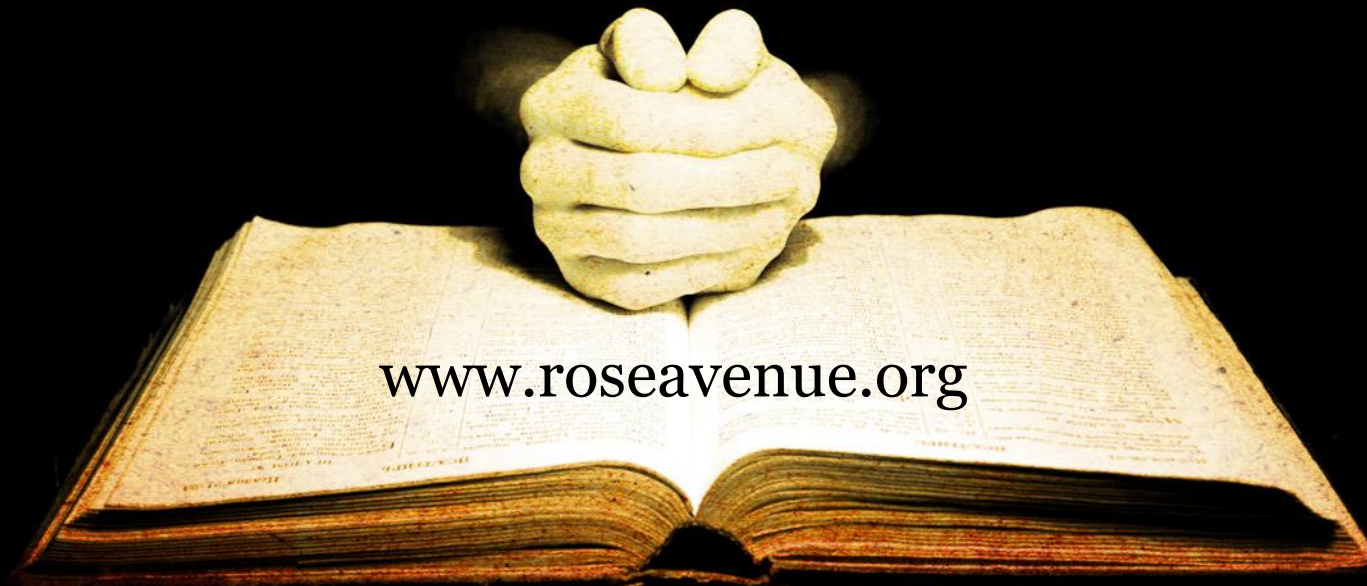
Expedients



Studying the Bible

- Today we conclude our examination of authority.
- We have established what authority is (permission) and why we need authority.
- We have addressed:
 - The 3 ways we communicate to establish authority
 - Specific and generics within instructions
 - Why silence is NOT a valid way to definitively establish authority – you are justifying something based on NOTHING.

Bible study (8)
Do We Have Authority for a Water
Fountain?
(Examining Expedients)



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



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.

Water fountain? The premise!

- You show that something is not authorized based on the principles we have discussed, especially the appeal to silence - e.g., “The NT says nothing about instrumental music in our worship”
- They reply, “We do many things that are not mentioned in the Bible. Where is your authority for a water fountain?”
- This lesson is about the difference between additions and expediencies (aids)



Water fountain? The premise!

- The FIRST point I would make to this argument is:
- Let's suppose there is no authority for the water fountain. Is the answer, "You're right, so I guess instrumental music is ok"?
- We know better than that - PLEASE be honest and use sound reasoning (logic, how we communicate)

BUT, using sound reasoning, there IS authority for a water fountain.



Concerning Expedients

What is an expedient?

- Something that assists or helps us carry out a given task.
- Biblically something that AIDS us in carrying out God's will.
- **John 11:49-50, 18:14** – Caiaphas declared, “*it is expedient that one man should die...*” (speaking of Jesus). A dark illustration, but it makes the point.
- **John 16:7**, “*It is to your advantage that I go away...*”
- **1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23**, “*All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful.*”



Concerning Expedients

What is an addition?

- To add to or join to something else.
- Think of an addition to a house. When finished, you have MORE than what you started with.
- **2 Samuel 6:3, 6-7**, Uzzah died because David **ADDED** a new cart to God's instruction's
- **Mark 7:1-13**, the Jews **ADDED** an exception to God's command to honor your father and mother (**Exodus 20:12**). Thereby they **CHANGED** His command.
Mark 7:13, "And many such things you do."



Concerning Expedients

What is the difference between an aid and an addition?

- When you **ADD** something to God's instructions, you are going **BEYOND** the boundaries God's word has set -
1 Corinthians 4:6, 2 John 9
- An **AID (expedient)** is helping you to carry out God's instructions while respecting His boundaries. They do **NOT** change the command.

Appealing to rules of communication,
we **KNOW** the difference! Think!!!

Singing

- **Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:15** - the command to sing is clear (a **specific** TYPE of music). With your voice, teaching one another (when we assemble), etc.
Generic - type of singing, number of songs, order, etc.
- Instruments or “vocal play” are **additions** outside the boundaries of “singing”.
- **Expedients** - song books (or projection, memory), pitch pipe, number of songs, suitable for the occasion



Expedients - Application

Lord's Supper

- **1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (Luke 22:19-20, Matt. 26:26-28), Acts 20:7** - Elements to use and Sunday are **specified**. NOTE: So is the fact that it is IN an assembly of a local church.
Generic - time of day, when in the assembly, a song “to prepare our minds”, etc.
- Cake and soda, Tuesday, are **additions** outside the boundaries of what is instructed.
- **Expedients** - how we distribute the emblems, number of containers, **WHEN** during the service.



Expedients - Application

The work of the church

- The Bible gives clear direction as to what the church is to be doing, and how!
- Edification - **1 Corinthians 14:12, Ephesians 4:11-16, etc.** EVERYTHING in scripture points to it being spiritual (building us up spiritually), and for members of the body.
- Facilities for social gatherings, recreation or entertainment are **additions** to the work.
So is expanding these works to the community.
- **Expedients** - a place to teach, specified times to gather, Bibles, class materials, etc.



Expedients - Application

Baptism

- Leads to salvation, immersion - **Acts 2:38, 8:36-39, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21, etc.**
- Baptism for a different reason, changing the mode (sprinkling or pouring), not water are **additions**.
- **Expedients** - a baptistery (circulating pump, water heater), providing modest garments, towels, etc.



Expedients - Application

Assembling

- We are to assemble - **Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, etc.** To assemble we need a place!
- In scripture they assembled:
 - Acts 5:12** - Solomon's porch
 - Acts 19:9-10** - school of Tyrannus
 - Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15** - in a house
 - 1 Corinthians 11:22, 34** - a place OTHER than a house
- **Expedients** - when we assemble (SUNDAY is a must), how often and WHERE we assemble. Providing a place to assemble is authorized by the above passages, etc.



Expedients - Application

Is there authority for a water fountain?

- Yes! Because we are commanded to assemble, and we have examples of assembling in places other than homes.
- Should we choose to purchase a building (**an expedient**), then the amenities associated with the building are expedients - including electricity, a place to sit, restrooms, doors, windows, AC, and...
- **A water fountain!**

The water fountain!

- It is an aid (**an expedient**), for comfort as we gather to worship. It is NOT **adding** anything or taking away from worshipping God properly.
- This is NOT the same thing as **adding** an additional facility to provide recreation and meals. It is NOT the same thing as **adding** a piano to facilitate singing.

We know the difference!



Expedients - Some rules

- There are some rules to keep in mind as we consider expediencies
- First, an expediency must be lawful - **1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23**
- Expedients involve options or choices
- Expedients must edify (build up the body) - **1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 14:26**
- Expedients CANNOT change the force or effect of what is commanded or authorized (Boundaries)

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

Expedients - Some rules

- There are some rules to keep in mind as we consider expediencies
- Expedients should not be self-serving
 - **1 Corinthians 10:25-30, Philippians 2:3-4 Romans 14:19.** We need to think about what is best for everyone, not demanding our personal preferences. Am I willing to yield (**James 3:17**), without compromising the faith?

- What God says is important.
How we do what we do matters!
- Let us resolve to approach His word with the desire to glean from it what He intended.



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 solid blue color, matching the shirt. The text "Let us pray!" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Let us pray!

