

The Church v2

Lesson 6

How To Establish Divine Authority

The Church v2

1. What is the church?
2. The nature of the universal church
3. The nature of a local church
4. Unreliable sources of religious authority
5. The only source of Divine authority today
6. How to establish Divine authority
7. Things that are expedient

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The Church v2

8. Respecting the silence of the Scriptures
9. The organization of a local church
10. The work of a local church
11. Independence autonomy and cooperation of local churches
12. Institutionalism
13. The social gospel
14. The unity of the church

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The Only Source of Divine Authority Today

1. The Father has given Jesus all authority
2. Jesus promised to give authority to his apostles
3. The apostles spoke, confirmed and wrote the authorized teaching of the Lord
4. The New Testament is God's complete final all-sufficient guide for us today

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Introduction

- Many churches following conflicting teachings and practices are produced when they follow various unreliable sources of religious authority
- The only source of authority that we must follow today is the apostles' teaching contained in the New Testament which has been completely revealed and confirmed

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Introduction

- Even if we agree that this is God's standard to follow, we still are faced with how we are to understand and apply the New Testament in all areas of life including the worship and work of a local church
- How do we establish Divine authority?
- We study four ways of doing this plus generic and specific authority

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Direct Commands

Imperative statements that either tell us what we must do or not do

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Example 1 - Direct Command

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

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Example 2 - Direct Command

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

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Example 3 - Direct Command

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Direct Statements

Statements of truth that reveal what we must believe in and hope for

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Example 1 - Direct Statement

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

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Example 1 - Direct Statement

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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Example 2 - Direct Statement

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

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Example 2 - Direct Statement

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Col 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

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Example 3 - Direct Statement

Act 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

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Example 3 - Direct Statement

Act 1:11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

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Approved Examples

Practices done with the approval of Jesus' apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, providing a pattern for us to follow today

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Approved Examples

1Co 4:16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

1Co 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

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Approved Examples

Php 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

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Example 1 – Approved Example

Partake of Lord's Supper every first day of week

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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Example 1 – Approved Example

Partake of Lord's Supper every first day of week

1Co 10:16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

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Example 2 – Approved Example

Appointing elders in every local church

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

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Example 2 – Approved Example

Appointing elders in every local church

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

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Example 2 – Approved Example

Appointing elders in every local church
Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

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Example 3 – Approved Example

Preachers have right to marry
1Co 9:5 Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

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How To Establish Divine Authority

1. Direct commands
2. Direct statements
3. Approved examples

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Necessary Inferences Or Forced Conclusions

Necessary or inescapable conclusions we infer from information given in the Scriptures

The given information implies what must be necessarily inferred although not stated in the text

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Example 1 - Necessary Inference

The resurrection of the dead
Mat 22:29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.
Mat 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

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Example 1 - Necessary Inference

The resurrection of the dead
Mat 22:31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:
Mat 22:32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

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Example 1 - Necessary Inference

The resurrection of the dead

Mat 22:33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

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Example 2 - Necessary Inference

God saves the Gentiles by the same gospel as He does the Jews

Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

Act 10:45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

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Example 2 - Necessary Inference

God saves the Gentiles by the same gospel as He does the Jews

Act 10:46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

Act 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"

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Example 2 - Necessary Inference

God saves the Gentiles by the same gospel as He does the Jews

Act 10:48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Act 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning.

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Example 2 - Necessary Inference

God saves the Gentiles by the same gospel as He does the Jews

Act 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

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Example 2 - Necessary Inference

God saves the Gentiles by the same gospel as He does the Jews

Act 11:17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

Act 11:18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

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Example 3 – Necessary Inferences

Infants are not required to be baptized
Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Example 3 – Necessary Inferences

Infants are not required to be baptized
Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"
Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

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Example 3 – Necessary Inferences

Infants are not required to be baptized
Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper
1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;
1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper
1Co 11:25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper
Mat 26:17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper

Mat 26:18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'""

Mat 26:19 The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper

Exo 12:18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper

Exo 12:19 'Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land.

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Example 4 - Necessary Inference

Unleavened bread must be used in the Lord's supper

Exo 12:20 'You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'"

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Generic and Specific Authority

- Generic authority – general in nature giving us a wide variety of specific options we can take to do what is authorized
- Specific authority – specific in nature where we are limited to following only the specific action that is authorized

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Example 1 – Generic Authority

Authorized to go and make disciples but not specifically told how or where to go

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

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Example 2 – Generic Authority

Authorized to teach disciples all things but methods of teaching not specified

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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Example 3 – Generic Authority

Authorized to sing types of songs but no specific songs are authorized

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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Example 1 – Specific Authority

Authorized to preach only the gospel to the world

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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Example 2 – Specific Authority

Authorized to contribute money only on the first day of the week

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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Example 3 – Specific Authority

Authorized only to sing in worship and not to play instruments

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

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Generic And Specific Authority

- If God has generally authorized something, we should not limit ourselves to specifics
- If God has specifically authorized something, we should not widen His authority to include things not specified

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How To Establish Divine Authority

1. Direct commands
2. Direct statements
3. Approved examples
4. Necessary Inferences or forced conclusions
5. Generic and specific authority