

The Church v2

Lesson 7

Things That Are Expedient

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

2

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

3

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

4

Introduction

- If we are going to believe or practice something, we should have Divine authority for it
- We should be able to find a command, direct statement, approved example or necessary inference to support our belief or practice
- If we do not have authority, we should never follow it, no matter how popular

5

Introduction

- In this lesson, we will study if we are authorized to use things that are not specified in the New Testament
- This may sound strange since we just said we should have authority for all we say and do
- Common example of these things would include church buildings, songbooks, baptisteries and communion trays

6

Introduction

- This calls for us to understand things that are expedient, matters of judgment we view as profitable to only carry out the commands of the Lord
- We should never use these things to justify unauthorized actions

7

What Is The Meaning of Expedient?

Expedient means to be of advantage, of benefit or profitable

Then, it can refer to an aid that is profitable, suitable for carrying out something that is authorized by the apostles' teaching

8

What Is The Meaning of Expedient?

Joh 11:47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

Joh 11:48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

9

What Is The Meaning of Expedient?

Joh 11:49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

Joh 11:50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."

10

What Is The Meaning of Expedient?

Joh 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

11

What Is The Meaning of Expedient?

- An expedient then is something we judge to be to our advantage in helping us carry out a command of the Lord
- Having the expedient is better than not having it
- But, there is more to making something expedient than just believing it is profitable to us

12

An Expedient Cannot Be Specified

- An expedient is a matter of judgment where we choose between several options to accomplish what God has authorized
- We have the freedom to either use an expedient or not
- But if God has specified something, then we must follow it without adding or taking away from it
- A baptistery can be used to baptize since no specific place has been revealed

13

Baptistery Permitted But Sinner's Prayer Forbidden

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.

14

An Expedient Must Be Lawful

- We should never go beyond what the New Testament authorizes by command, example or necessary inference
- For example, those who justify sprinkling as an expedient for baptism are wrong because sprinkling goes beyond the Bible meaning of baptism which is immersion or submersion, being completely placed under the water

15

An Expedient Must Be Lawful

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1Co 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

16

An Expedient Must Edify The Local Church

- Edify means to build up
- This occurs when we learn and apply and mature in the Word of God
- In other words, to be edified means we are growing spiritually by following the Word
- All things must be done with the purpose of edification in mind

17

An Expedient Must Edify The Local Church

1Co 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

1Co 14:40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

18

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

- We should not insist on doing something that is a matter of judgment if it leads a weaker brother to believe he is sinning if he participates in it
- Offending a weak brother's conscience means leading him to do something he believes is sinful although the action is not sinful

19

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

1Co 10:23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

1Co 10:24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

1Co 10:25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake;

20

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

1Co 10:26 FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

1Co 10:27 If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake.

21

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

1Co 10:28 But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake;

1Co 10:29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

22

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

1Co 10:30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

1Co 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1Co 10:32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

23

An Expedient Must Not Offend The Conscience of A Weak Brother

1Co 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

24

Examples of Lawful Expedients

1. Church building
2. Song books
3. Chairs
4. A baptistery
5. Microphone
6. The Lord's supper plate and trays
7. Setting times of service on the first day of the week and other times

25

Examples of Unlawful Expedients

1. Church funded recreational facilities
2. Musical instruments in worship
3. Church funded social meals and entertainment activities
4. Churches contributing to colleges and other institutions
5. Sprinkling as a method of baptism
6. Church fund raising through raffles, bingo and other means

26

Things That Are Expedient

1. What is the meaning of expedient?
2. An expedient
 - Cannot be specified
 - Must be lawful
 - Must edify the local church
 - Must not offend the conscience of a weak brother
3. Examples of lawful and unlawful expedients

27