By What Authority

Intro: Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” Jesus on this occasion refused to answer the question which came from the chief priest and elders for he know that their motive was not good.

1. He did not mean that the question was not a good question, for on numerous other occasions he did give a very definite answer to it.

2. His answer was always that his authority or His teaching came from the Father.
   a. John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”
   b. John 5:19 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”
   c. John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”
   d. John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”
   e. John 7:16 “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.”
   f. John 8:28 “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”
   g. John 10:38 “But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.”
   h. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
   i. John 14:10 “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”
   j. John 17:14 “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

I. THIS IS STILL A GOOD QUESTION TO ASK IN REGARD TO RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

A. Man is often prone to say, “It doesn’t make any difference, follow the dictates of your own heart.”

1. 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”
2. 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

3. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

B. There is but one answer that will be pleasing and acceptable to God, “by the authority of Christ.”

1. Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

2. Mat. 17:5 “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

3. Acts 3:22-23 “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.”

4. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

5. Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

6. That authority has been put in His word.

a. John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

b. Cf. John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

C. The churches of Christ are very happy for this question to be asked in regard to that which we teach and practice. 1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

D. However, we firmly believe that we also have the God-given right to ask this question of others. 1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

II. CONCERNING MAN’S PART IN SALVATION.

A. We teach that a man must:

1. Have a true faith in Christ as God’s Son,
2. Upon this faith must repent of his sins,
3. Confess Christ as the Son of God,
4. Be buried with his Lord in baptism for the remission of sins if he is to gain salvation.

B. By what authority do we teach and practice these things?

1. Remember, only one answer is acceptable to God: Thus we answer, “by the authority of Christ.”
2. Faith in God: Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

3. Faith in Christ as God’s Son:
   a. John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
   b. John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
   c. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

4. Repentance from sin:
   b. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   c. Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

5. Confession of Jesus as the Christ:
   a. Mat. 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
   b. Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
   c. Acts 8: 36-38 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

6. Buried with Christ in baptism for the remission of sins in order to be saved.
   a. Burial
      (1) Rom. 6:3-6 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 3 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 4 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 5 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”
      (2) Col. 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”
      (3) Act 8:36-38 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth
hinder me to be baptized?  37And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.  38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

b. For remission of sins.
   (1) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   (2) Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

c. For salvation
   (1) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   (2) 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

C. Now by what authority do you practice or teach some other way?

Conclusion: If it is not by the authority of Christ (and to be His authority it must be found in His word, the Bible) it is by some other authority that is not acceptable to God: the authority of man. If it has no higher authority than that of man then it is vain. (Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”).
By What Authority (2)

Intro: Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” Summary of the previous lesson. Now let us notice some other important questions in regard to religious doctrines and practices.

I. CONCERNING THE ONE CHURCH SPOKEN OF IN THE BIBLE.

A. We teach that Jesus established but one church and that one must be a member of that one church, if he is to be saved.

B. First, that Jesus established but one church.

1. Mat. 16:13-18 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

2. Rom. 12:4-5 “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

3. 1 Cor. 12:20 “But now are they many members, yet but one body.”

4. Eph. 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”

5. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

6. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

7. Let us notice some scriptural comparisons.

a. The church is Christ spiritual body: how many physical bodies did He have; thus, how many spiritual bodies does He have?

b. The church is Christ bride (Eph. 5): Does Christ who taught so emphatically against polygamy, have more than one bride?

8. Of course, as all others in the religious world, we recognize that this one church is made up of many individual congregations. Yet, there is but one church.

C. Second, that one must be a member of that one church in order to be saved.

1. Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

2. Eph. 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

D. Now by what authority do you practice or teach that there are more than one church, or that one can be eternally saved without being a member of that one church spoken of in the word of God.
II. CONCERNING THE NAME OF THAT ONE CHURCH.
   A. You might ask, by what authority do we teach and wear the name, “church of Christ” as a scripturally accepted name?

1. Mat. 16:13-18 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

2. Rom. 16:16 “Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”

3. Of course, we also recognize that there are other scriptural names.
   a. church of God;
      (1) 1 Cor. 1:2 “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
      (2) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   b. kingdom of God;  John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....5Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
   c. kingdom of Christ;
      (1) John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
      (2) Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
   d. kingdom of heaven; Mat. 16:19 “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
   e. The kingdom and the church are the same.
   f. The body of Christ;
      (1) Eph. 4:12 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”
      (2) Cf. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   g. bride of Christ; Eph. 5.
   h. church of the firstborn; Heb. 12:23 “To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,”
   i. the church
   j. Any term which signifies the church as belonging to Christ or God.

4. However, all these terms refer to that one church or body established by Christ.

5. We also realize that simply because one calls themselves by a scripturally authorized name does not make them the Lord’s church.

B. By what authority do you call the church of which you might attend by some other name?  It cannot be by the authority of Christ if it cannot be found in His word.
Conclusion: Are you a member of that one church, the church of Christ. If not, will you not denounce all unscriptural names and become a member of that one church where salvation is found.
Intro: Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”

Our authority must come from Christ in order to be pleasing to God. In previous lessons we have noted what man must do to be saved. We have noted the one church spoken of in the Bible and the name of that one church, and that one must be a member of that church in order to be saved. Today, I want us to notice some principles concerning that church.

I. The Worship of the Church.

A. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

1. It is to be directed to the Father.
2. It is to be in spirit.
3. It is to be in truth.

B. The items of worship.

1. Prayer
   a. 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
   b. 1 The. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

2. Study or preaching
   a. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
   b. Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
   c. 1 Cor. 14-15.

3. Contributing of our means.
   a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   b. 2 Cor. 8-9.

4. Singing
   a. 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
   b. Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
   c. Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

5. **Partaking of the Lord’s Supper every Sunday.**
   a. | Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
   b. | Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”
   c. | 1 Cor. 11:20-29, 26 “When ye come therefore into one place, **this** is not to eat the Lord’s supper. 21 For in eating every one taketh before **other** his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. 22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. 23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the **same** night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake **it**, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also **he took** the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink **this** cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of **that** bread, and drink of **that** cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”
   
   d. | Isa. 56:5 “Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;” cf. Isa. 66:23 “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”

C. **By what authority do we do anything other than these or change these in any way.**

Conclusion: God expects His people to be a worshipping people. However, we can only worship acceptably when we worship according to God’s Word.
Intro: Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” Whatever we do religiously must have a basis in the word of God. This is the only authority that will be pleasing to God in the last day. If our authority does not come from Jesus Christ and His word then it is valueless. Let us continue to notice some principles concerning the Lord’s church.

I. The Organization Of The Church
A. We teach and practice that the church is under the headship of Jesus Christ, and there is no earthly headquarters.
   1. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   2. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
B. That each local congregation is autonomous and within each one there are elders and deacons.
   1. Each congregation is autonomous.
      a. Acts 14:23 “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”
      b. 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”
   2. Within that local congregation there are to be elders and deacons who meet certain qualifications.
      a. There are to be elders and deacons (plurality).
         (1) Acts 14:23 “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”
         (2) Phi. 1:1 “Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.”
      b. These men must meet the qualifications.
         (1) 1 Tim. 3
         (2) Tit. 1
      c. Their duty is to oversee the affairs of the local congregation.
         (1) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
         (2) 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”
C. By what authority does anyone alter or change this God ordained pattern.

II. The Work of the Church.

A. Preaching to the lost.

1. Eph. 4:11-12 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

2. Rom. 12:4-8 “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 4So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 8Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 8Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

3. Acts 8:3-4 “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and halting men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

4. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

5. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

6. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

B. Edify the saved.

1. Eph. 4:11-16 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

2. Rom. 12:4-8 “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 4So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 8Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 8Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

3. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
C. Benevolence

1. Acts 11:27-30 “And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”

2. Acts 20:35 “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

3. Eph. 4:28 “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

4. Gal. 6:9-10 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

D. By what authority do you teach or practice anything else?

Conclusion: Let us do only that which God has authorized.