By What Authority

Intro: A study of authority is essential. There is authority in every aspect of life, it is impossible to escape it. While man might try, he cannot. He might rebel against it, but that shows that he is subject to the authority he rebels against. Without authority, chaos and bedlam would reign. Authority is defined as: the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions; jurisdiction.” Within the religious realm there must be authority.

I. FALSE STANDARDS OF RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY.
   A. The Subjectivist.
      1. They maintain that human reason is the standard of authority in religious matters.
         a. They elevate man to the state of god.
         b. They try to reason without God.
            (1) Naaman; 2 Kin. 5:11 “But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”
            (2) Paul shows where this authority ends; Rom. 1:18-32.
         c. Notice some categories of subjectivist.
      2. Conscience, Feelings.
         a. What is our conscience?
            (1) Conscience is “with knowledge” or knowledge obtained within himself.
            (2) The mind educated with certain knowledge, upon this he bases his life (actions).
            (3) Our conscience is valuable in living properly, but only when properly taught.
            (4) Many are not taught correctly; cf. Jacob taught that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast when he was alive.
         b. Paul and his conscience.
            (1) Trained in Jews religion; Acts 22:3 “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.”
            (2) Because of that training he persecuted Christians; Acts 26:9-11 “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.”
            (3) In spite of doing this he lived in good conscience.
               (a) Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
               (b) Acts 24:16 “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”
            (4) Yet his actions were contrary to God.
         c. Conscience and man’s feelings are not our religious authority.
3. Dreams and Visions.
   a. Some believe that an angel or something else appeared to them instructing
      them to act in a certain way.
      (1) Some believe they have seen Jesus appearing to them.
      (2) Yet, they ones who believe such do not agree as to what one must
          believe or do.
   b. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace
      of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you,
      and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach
      any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
      9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than
      that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
      (1) Even if an angel did appear to them, if it says anything other than
          God’s Word, then it will be eternally cut off from God.
      (2) Angels, dreams, visions, etc. cannot be trusted to lead us in the right
          way.

4. Parents.
   a. This is the “religion of my fathers.”
   b. Often our parents are not agreed religiously.
      (1) If one parent is one thing religiously, and the other is something
          else, whose religion should be followed?
      (2) If we go back 7 generations, we have 128 parents. Not all are the
          same religiously.
      (3) If we go back 15 generations, we have 32,768 parents.
      (4) Many parents change religious beliefs. Which one should be
          followed: the first or the second?
   c. Gal. 1:13-14 “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion,
      how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it. 14 And profited in
      the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly
      zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”
      (1) Paul was profiting in the “religion of his parents.”
      (2) God called him out of that religion.

5. Majority Opinion.
   a. This is transferring the authority from one to many.
      (1) The views of the majority are constantly changing.
      (2) What is right today might be wrong tomorrow.
      (3) How would we ever really know what the view of the majority is?
   b. The multitude (majority) is not always right, usually wrong.
      (1) Exo. 23:2 “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak
          in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:”
      (2) Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is
          the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
          14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and
          few there be that find it.”

B. The Church.
   1. The pope.
      a. This is the answer of Catholicism.
      (1) They believe that when the pope speaks *ex cathedra* (giving a papal
          bull) that God is speaking through him.
(2) They falsely believe that Peter was the first pope.
(3) They believe that Jesus gave Peter special authority
   (a) 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.”
       i) This same authority was given to all the apostles, and to the church.
       ii) Mat. 18:18 “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind
           on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall
           loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
       iii) John 20:22-23 “And when he had said this, he breathed on
            them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:
            21Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and
            whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”
       iv) This only means they are to speak what has already
           been bound by God.
   (b) They believe this authority was passed down to all popes.

b. The popes have changed many times over the years, even giving conflicting
   papal bulls.
   (1) Which one shall we believe?
   (2) If we believe one, it may change tomorrow; giving us no assurance
       of anything.

2. Creeds, Disciplines, and Manuals.
   a. These are statements or books which men have developed as a statement of
      their beliefs.
      (1) They do not agree with each other, thus which one should we
          follow?
      (2) Do we simply choose the one that suits us?
          (a) This is the background of “Join the church of your choice.”
          (b) This ends up being: do your own thing, brought over into
              religion.
      b. Gal. 1:9 “As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto
         you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

3. Preachers.
   a. Many members of the church practice this.
      (1) Heard in discussions is: “My preacher says...”
      (2) Many preachers succumb to this (I take brother so-and-so’s view).
   b. Not all preachers agree.
   c. God did not make preachers, elders, or anyone else the authority within the
      church.

C. The Bible.

1. Man cannot direct his own ways (as is seen in the other views).
   a. Jer. 10:23 “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that
      walketh to direct his steps.”
   b. Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;
       and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
   c. Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the
      ways of death.”
2. The Scriptures claim to be the final authority religiously.
3. Before establishing this, let us lay some foundational elements.

II. AUTHORITY RESIDES IN GOD.
   A. Since God is Creator, authority inherently resides in Him.
      1. Goebel Music wrote, “In the very first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1, which verse
         repudiates atheism, refutes materialism, and abolishes pantheism, God declares,
         once and for all, his authority.”
      2. Jer. 18:1-6 “The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2Arise, and go down to
         the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3Then I went down to the potter’s
         house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4And the vessel that he made of clay was
         marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter
         to make it. 5Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6O house of Israel, cannot I do with you
         as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O
         house of Israel.”
      3. Rom. 9:20-21 “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed
         say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay,
         of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”
      4. God formed man for Himself; Isa. 43:21 “This people have I formed for myself; they shall
         shew forth my praise.”
   B. From the Beginning we see God’s inherent authority.
      1. God gave man commands (both positive and negative) and imposed penalties for
         disobedience.
      2. God commanded man to keep the garden, be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.
      3. Told man not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; Gen. 2:16-17
         “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely
         eat: 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that
         thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
      4. When man transgressed, God imposed punishments.
   C. We will be judged by Him, shows God’s authority.
      1. Rom. 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
      2. 1 Pet. 1:17 “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to
         every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:”
      3. Ecc. 12:14 “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be
         good, or whether it be evil.”

III. GOD HAS GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CHRIST.
   A. The Father—as Creator—has inherent authority.
      1. Christ was also involved in the creation.
         a. John 1:3 “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that
            was made.”
         b. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
            (1) God is the Hebrew Elohim which is a plural noun.
            (2) Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
               and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air,
               and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that
               creepeth upon the earth.”
      2. Thus, Jesus has authority in religious matters.
   B. Others recognized His authority.
      1. Mat. 7:28-29 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were
astonished at his doctrine: 29For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

2. Even the unclean spirits recognized His authority and obeyed Him.
   a. Mark 1:25-26 “And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. 26And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.”
   b. This caused man to recognize His authority; Mark 1:27 “And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.”

C. We are to hear Christ.
   1. Deu. 18:15,18-19 “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; and I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 18And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”
   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. The reason is because God is speaking through Him; Heb. 1:1-2 “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2Hath 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;”

D. His authority is seen in what God has done for Him.
   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.”
      a. Headship denotes authority.
      b. That is why Jesus is referred to as King of kings and Lord of lords.
   3. 1 Cor. 15:27 “For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.”

E. The Father gave Jesus the power to execute judgment.
   1. John 5:27 “And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”
   2. Acts 10:42 “And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.”

F. Jesus will be the judge.
   1. Acts 17:31 “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.”
   2. Rom. 14:10 “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”
   3. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
   4. Jude 15 “To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

G. Christ can only judge if He has authority; Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

IV. The Authority of Christ Is in His Word.
   A. The words Jesus spoke carries the authority of God.
      1. Deu. 18:15, 18-19 “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee,
of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”

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. 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;”

B. Jesus taught that His Word would be the standard of judgment.

1. 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.”

2. The message was not His.

a. The word of (vs. 49) is the Greek ἐκ (ek) denoting origin; the origin of the message is not Christ but the Father; thus it is the standard of judgment.

b. 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;”

V. THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE.

A. Jesus gave His authoritative Word to His apostles.

1. John 17:8, 14, 18 “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 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. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

2. Mat. 10:40 “He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”

B. To ensure accuracy, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles.

1. John 14:25-26 “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

2. John 16:12-13 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

C. The apostles spoke the Word the Spirit revealed to them.

1. Mark 13:11 “But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye meditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.”

2. 1 Cor. 2:12-13 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

D. The apostles wrote the Word the Spirit revealed to them.

1. 1 Cor. 14:37 “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”

2. Eph. 3:2-5 “If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in
other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles
and prophets by the Spirit;”

3. When we study the Bible we can understand God’s Word; Eph. 5:17 “Wherefore be
ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

4. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect,
throughly furnished unto all good works.”

E. The Bible will judge us on the last day.
1. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened:
and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those
things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

2. 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. 49For 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. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even
as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”

3. Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my
gospel.”

F. The Scriptures are all we need to guide us religiously.
1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect,
throughly furnished unto all good works.”

2. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and
godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 3Whereby are given
unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine
nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
   a. Life
      (1) Abundant life in the here and now; John 10:10 “The thief cometh not,
          but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life,
          and that they might have it more abundantly.”

      (2) Eternal life in the hereafter; Mark 10:30 “But he shall receive an
          hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and
          children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

   b. Godliness (is to be devout, and denotes a piety that does that which is well-
      pleasing to God).

3. Consider what the Bible does for man.
   a. Convicts; Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any
twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints
and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

   b. Converts; Psa. 19:7 “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony
      of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

   c. Justifies
      (1) Rom. 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the
          deeds of the law.”

      (2) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of
          God.”

   d. Saves
      (1) Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of
          God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the
          Greek.”

      (2) Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and
          receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
e. **Sanctifies; John 17:17** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

f. **Edifies; Acts 20:32** “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

g. **Begets**
   
   (1) **1 Cor. 4:15** “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
   
   (2) **1 Pet. 1:23** “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
   
   (3) **Jam. 1:18** “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

h. **Gives Life**
   
   (1) **Mat. 4:4** “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
   
   (2) **Psa. 119:25, 50, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156** “My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.... 50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.... 93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.... 107 I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.... 149“Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.... 154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.... 156 Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.”

i. **Guides**
   
   (1) **Psa. 73:24** “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”
   
   (2) **Luke 1:77-79** “To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins. 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

j. **Frees from Sin; John 8:32** “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

k. **Gives Understanding; Psa. 119:104** “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.”

l. **Enlightens**
   
   (1) **Psa. 19:8** “The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
   
   (2) **Psa. 119:130** “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

m. **Comforts**
   
   (1) **Rom. 15:4** “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”
   
   (2) **1 The. 4:18** “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

n. **Teaches us how to walk**
   
   (1) **2 John 4** “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”
   
   (2) **3 John 4** “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

o. **Helps bring forth fruit**
   
   (1) **Luke 8:15** “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”
   
   (2) **Col. 1:5-6** “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereby ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in
all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"

p. Helps us grow; 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

q. Has power to work in us; 1 Th. 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

r. Gives Knowledge; 1 Cor. 2:10,11,13 “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

s. Purifies; 1 Pet. 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”

t. Cleanses
(1) John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
(2) Eph. 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
(3) Psa. 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

u. Keep us from sin; Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

v. Gives Light
(1) Psa. 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
(2) Psa. 119:130 “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

w. Keeps us from erring; Mat. 22:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

x. Accomplishes God’s Will; Isa. 55:10-11 “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

G. We must not make any changes to the Bible.
1. 1 Cor. 4:6 “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”

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. 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

4. Thus we do not add to or take anything away from the Bible.
   a. Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”
   b. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye
diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

c. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

d. 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgreseth, 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.”

VI. **HOW THE WORD AUTHORIZES.**

A. **We are to do everything by the authority of Christ.**

1. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

2. “In the name of” refers to authority.
   a. Acts 4:7 “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”
   b. Example: “Stop in the name of the law” is by the authority of the law.

B. **How the Bible authorizes.**

1. Direct statements.
   a. Some incorrectly call this commands.
   b. There are 11 different types of direct statements based upon the New Testament Greek tense.

2. Implications.
   a. Some incorrectly call this necessary inference.
   b. This is when an action, fact, or teaching is absolutely demanded by the information given in the Bible without specifically being stated.
   c. Inference deals with my correct reasoning regarding what god has implied.
   d. Roy Deaver correctly stated: “The authority lies not in the fact that I read it, but in the fact that God wrote it; not in the fact that I reasoned correctly, but in the fact that God implied it.”

3. Examples.
   a. This is a pattern which is to be followed.
   b. There are many accounts of action recorded in the Bible, only those which constitute an example are binding.
   c. An account of action constitutes an example when we find the church with general apostolic approval and teaching practicing what is essential to Christianity.
   d. There are examples that are binding in the sense that they **must** be done while others **may** be done (based on the totality of the Bible’s teaching).
   e. There are also examples of things we are not to do and be.

4. This is not arbitrary.
   a. It is the nature of language, this is the only way to authorize.
   b. It is accepted by divine inspiration.
   (1) Acts 15:
      (a) Direct Statement; Acts 15:15 “And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,”
      (b) Example; Acts 15:12 “Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave
audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.”

(c) Implication; Acts 15:7-11 “And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. 8And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; 9And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

(2) Accepted by inspired men; Gal. 2.

C. Silence of the Scriptures.

1. There are two main positions.
   a. If the Bible does not speak on a specific issue, then that silence permits us to do it.
   b. If the Bible does not speak on a specific issue, then we are forbidden to do such.

2. We are to do only what is authorized.
   a. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
   b. If we do something that He has not authorized, then it is going beyond the doctrine of Christ; 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.”

3. Authority comes from either God or man.
   a. 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.”
   b. If it is from the authority of heaven then it is in the Bible.
   c. If it only has the authority of man (what silence is) then it is sin.
      (1) Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
      (2) Common sense tells us the same thing: if you order an item, then you do not need to tell them you do not want everything else.

4. Silence does not permit anything, we must have authority for what we do (silence prohibits).
   a. To act where God has not authorized (which is silence permitting) is to go beyond what is taught.
   b. Rev. 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”
   c. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
d. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

e. 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.”

Conclusion: We desperately need to learn the important lesson of authority. We should ask regarding every act and word: Do we have authority in the Bible for this? We must determine to do **only** what the Bible authorizes us to do.