**ESTABLISHING BIBLE AUTHORITY**

1. **CAN WE MULTIPLY OUR MEMBERSHIP – FAST, CHEAP & EASY?**
2. We could fellowship anyone baptized for forgiveness of sins and claim membership in the church, regardless of what they do, teach or believe.

**2**

1. We could fellowship everyone who claims to follow the Bible, regardless of what they actually do.
2. Free food to all attendees? Free beer to all claiming membership.
3. If so simple, why wasn’t it done 2,000 years ago by New Testament Christians??
4. Senseless? Such propositions & wild ideas in endless varieties. “Fellowship \_\_\_.” “Modernize.” “Re-evaluate.”

**3**

1. Colossians 3:17, God commands that we have Divine authority for what we do.

# HOW DO WE FIND THE TRUE WAY IN THIS WORLD’S MESS?

**5**

1. PROVERB 23:23, How do we “buy” or “sell” Truth? Judas sold Jesus in betrayal.
2. How do we “buy” the Truth? PROVERB 3:13-18 (// 8:11), forsaking worldliness and all else that forsakes the Truth. What do we prize most? Would others agree?

**7**

1. Where does Truth come from? Do we need committees? PROVERB 3:5.
2. JOHN 17:17, God’s Word is Truth.

**9**

JOHN 8:32, only the Truth will make us free. If adhering to the pure Truth makes us free, then clinging to anything else COSTS US OUR FREEDOM!

1. I PETER 4:11, We should speak as the Word of God speaks, but not dare to venture into realms where God has not shown us the Way.

**10**

# HOW CAN SOMETHING BE CONTRARY TO THE SCRIPTURES?

1. “Thou shalt not…” (Specific prohibition) MATTHEW 5:33-36.

**12**

This would be similar to sending someone out to grow **anything but** mustard greens. They can grow anything else. Genesis 2:16-17, even in the garden!

1. No Scriptural authority for something and practicing it means “going beyond” the Lord’s Will. (Non-specific prohibition) I CORINTHIANS 4:6

**13**

Many have trouble accepting this in religious matters, they certainly expect true compliance from everyone else they deal with. If someone was sent out to buy “red tomatoes”, but they came back with red chili peppers, would that be acceptable? What if they brought back a green tomato? What about green tomatoes and red chili peppers? 🡪“But God never said NOT to!”

# HOW DO WE GO ABOUT ESTABLISHING SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY?

1. Direct command – “Thou shalt…” 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6.
2. Approved example – ACTS 20:7, disciples observed Lord’s Supper Sundays.
3. Necessary Implication – That we have authority for a church treasury is by necessary implication. There are no commands for us to give, but we see that the early churches supported preachers in the field, 2 Corinthians 12:13, their own true widows, I Timothy 5:3-11, and elders, I Timothy 5:17-18. There was of necessity a collection of money.

**17**

1. The Lord’s Supper gives us an example of each avenue of authority:

**18**

1. Observance – I CORINTHIANS 11:23-24, “This do.” (Do it). Direct command.
2. Time of observance – ACTS 20:7, approved example.
3. Frequency of observance – Necessary implication used the same way the Children of Israel understood it, (EXODUS 20:8, how many Sabbaths did not apply?)
4. What time we meet on Sunday, duration of the assembly, what songs we sing…

We are told to meet, we see to meet on Sunday, and by implication how often. Any hour on Sunday is acceptable, so the hour we choose is expedient.

**19**

1. If there is no command, no approved example, or no necessary inference, that practice is without scriptural authority. It is contrary to God’s Will. It is SIN.

* Matthew 7:21-23, what does Jesus say of “lawlessness”?

**20**

* I John 3:4, what does God’s Word equivocate with “lawlessness”?
* Lawlessness – ANOMIA – to step across – to act without authority.

1. **TAMPERING WITH GOD’S WORD**

**21**

1. DEUTERONOMY 4:2, don’t tamper with God’s Word - just DO it!
2. PROVERB 30:5-6, can we leave parts of it out and still be right with God?

**23**

* Acts 20:26-27, Paul was innocent of the blood of all men because he declared the WHOLE counsel of God.

1. REVELATION 22:18-19, does this apply specifically to the book of Revelation but we are free to do as we wish to the rest of God’s Word?

**24**

1. MATTHEW 28:18, could soldiers disregard the commander-in-chief’s orders in place of what they thought ought to be done?

**25**

1. Find one place in the Scriptures where God advocated the “church of your choice.” God insisted that we walk the straight and narrow Way, COLOSSIANS 3:17, MATTHEW 7:13-14, 21-23.

**28**

1. GALATIANS 1:6-9, there is no other Gospel, but many still insist that it’s so.
2. **GOS SAYS THAT IF WE DO NOT FOLLOW HIS WORD, WE DO NOT HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM OR WITH HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS!**

**30**

1. I JOHN 1:5-10, whom do the willfully “lawless” have fellowship with?
2. “Conservative” and “conservative” brethren are not found in the Bible, but we do read plenty of “faithful” and “unfaithful” brethren. We also read of the “obedient” and the “disobedient.” Using terms that God does not allows easier standards of fellowship that God does not.

**32**

1. EPHESIANS 5:11, “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” Is this about MOTIVE or of obedience to the Word of God?

**33**

1. I CORINTHIANS 16:19-20, 22, Do we see peace at any cost, or do we see standing united according to the Lord’s Will alone?

**34**

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, yet 2 Tim 2:15**

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (John 5:24; Romans 10:17) Believe the Word of God (John 3:16-18; John 8:24)

Repent Of Your Sins (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38) Confess Jesus as Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10)

Be Baptized (Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27) Remain Faithful for Life (John 8:31; Rev. 2:10)

**FOR THE ERRING CHILD OF GOD:**

Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I John 1:9), Pray (Acts 8:22)

Greg Madden PO Box 1914 Soldotna,AK 99669-1914 (907)420-4120 www.FunnyRiverRoadchurchofChrist.com