

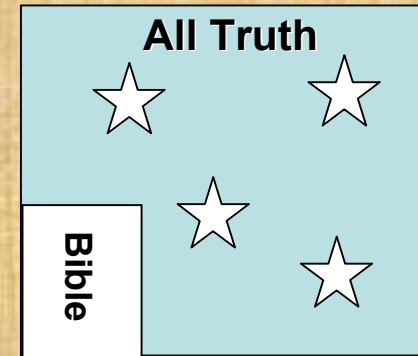
SEEKING GOD'S AUTHORITY

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- **THE NATURE OF AUTHORITY**
 - **DISCIPLINE IS A PART OF LIFE**
 - **INHERENT AUTHORITY**
 - **DELEGATED AUTHORITY**
 - **COLOSSIANS 3:17**

POPULAR VIEWS

- **CATHOLICS BELIEVE IN “DIVINE” TRADITIONS**
- **MANY “CHRISTIANS” DO NOT BELIEVE IN AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES**
- **HALF OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND *CLERGY* BELIEVES CHRIST IS NOT THE ONLY ROUTE TO SALVATION**



POPULAR VIEWS

- IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE HOW YOU WORSHIP AS LONG AS YOU LOVE GOD.
- THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GOD.
- GOD SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO MY HEART.
- WHAT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY MOTHER...
- THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES ME INTO TRUTH.
- THE BIBLE IS MYTHICAL, NOT ABSOLUTE TRUTH.
- JUST BE GOOD, SINCERE; GOD WILL APPROVE
- THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, BUT IT IS CORRUPTED.

POPULAR VIEWS

- **WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THIS WAY.**
- **THIS IS THE WAY MY CHURCH TEACHES IT.**
- **LET'S NOT CHANGE; THIS WAY WORKS OKAY.**
- **IT DOES GOOD, SO IT MUST BE RIGHT.**
- **OTHER GOOD CHURCHES ARE DOING IT.**
- **GOD IS LOVING; HE'S NOT THAT STRICT; HE'S A LOVING GOD.**

POPULAR VIEWS

- **“BUT HOW CAN WE KNOW FOR SURE WHAT IS DIVINE INSPIRATION AND WHAT IS NOT? HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN WHO IS SPEAKING ETERNAL TRUTH? ... WE DO NOT HAVE TO KNOW. ALL WE HAVE TO KNOW IS *OUR* TRUTH, NOT SOMEONE ELSE’S.”**

Neale Donald Walsch, *Communion with God*, p.3

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- **GOD AND HIS WILL ARE SUPREME**
 - **EVERYONE SUBMITS TO NATURE, BUT GOD IS HIGHER**
 - **MEN'S COMMANDS/TRADITIONS ARE VAIN. MATTHEW 15:7-9**
 - **SOME EVEN CLAIM THEIR TRADITIONS ARE INSPIRED.**
 - **IF SO, GOD VIOLATED SCRIPTURAL CLAIMS HE MADE.**
- **GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO MANKIND**
 - **GENERAL REVELATION**
 - **SPECIAL REVELATION**

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- **“ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION...”**
2 TIMOTHY 3:16
 - *THEOPNEUSTOS* = *THEOS*, GOD; *PNEŌ*, TO BREATHE
 - PETER: THEY WROTE AS MOVED BY HOLY SPIRIT
2 PETER 1:21
 - PAUL AGREED. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-13
 - JESUS TREATED OT AS INSPIRED BY GOD.
MATTHEW 5:18; MARK 12:35-37; JOHN 10:34-36
- **INSPIRED SCRIPTURE IS INERRANT**
 - THAT IS, *FREE FROM ERROR, INFALLIBLE.*
 - EVEN OUR COPIES TODAY ARE GENERALLY INFALLIBLE.
 - ERRORS IN GOOD TRANSLATIONS ARE ONLY SLIGHT.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

- **SINCE GOD REVEALED HIMSELF THROUGH *INSPIRED* MEN WHO WROTE HIS *INERRANT* WORD, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIS REVELATION?**

Handle it aright,

THAT IS,

Rightly divide it.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

...and Obey it!

HOW THE BIBLE AUTHORIZES

- **DIRECT STATEMENTS**

- **DECLARATIVES** JOHN 14:6; MATT 5:3-10
- **INTERROGATIVES** 1 COR. 10:16; ACTS 2:37
- **IMPERATIVES (COMMANDS)** MATTHEW 28:19
- **EXCLAMATIONS** JOHN 1:29

- **APPROVED EXAMPLES**

- **PROVIDE US A *PATTERN*** HEB. 8:5; 1 TIM. 1:16
- ***NON-RESTRICTIVE* EXAMPLES**
- ***RESTRICTIVE* EXAMPLES**

HOW THE BIBLE AUTHORIZES

- **NECESSARY INFERENCE / CONCLUSION**
 - “...NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER,... HEBREWS 10:25
 - **WHAT IS NECESSARILY IMPLIED?**
 1. **HAVING A BUILDING TO MEET IN**
 2. **MEETING WITH OTHERS**
 3. **ASSEMBLING ON SUNDAY**
 4. **HAVING A PLACE TO MEET**
 5. **WHO IS TO MEET**
 6. **MEETINGS ARE REPEATED ON SOME FREQUENCY**

HOW THE BIBLE AUTHORIZES

- **EXPEDIENCY**
 - **ANYTHING THAT ASSISTS OR EXPEDITES THE THING OR ACTION AUTHORIZED**
 - **DOES NOT AUTHORIZE APART FROM THE THING OR ACT IT EXPEDITES**

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some questions to answer...

- **DOES THE PRACTICE HAVE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OR IS IT LIMITED TO THE TIME AND PLACE IN WHICH WE FIND IT?**
- **CAN / SHOULD IT BE APPLIED TO ALL PEOPLE IN ALL CULTURES?**
- **HOW DO OTHER PASSAGES HARMONIZE WITH OR SHED LIGHT ON THE PRACTICE?**

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **FOOT WASHING JOHN 13:12-16**
- **THE HOLY KISS ROMANS 16:16; 1 PETER 5:14**
- **PROHIBITION ON WOMEN AS PREACHERS AND ELDERS 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-14**

Universal principles to bind today or cultural practices only for the first century?

THE CHURCH AND CULTURE

- **THE CHURCH – ORDAINED “BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD,...”**
EPHESIANS 1:3, 4
- **CULTURES ARE MADE AND MODIFIED BY MEN.**
- **CULTURES DO NOT DEFINE TRUTH.**

The church is to change
the culture in which it lives,
not the other way around.