

1. Ever since men have determined to return to the Bible (Reformation / Restoration) debate has raged over what to do when God says NOTHING?
2. **Col 3:17** is a divine rule to govern all.
3. Also, we are told to “*rightly divide*” that word (**2 Tim 2:15**). When pioneer preachers began directing people to the Bible – most made no distinction in OT & NT – Various ages / dispensations of time.
 - a. **Patriarchal (Heb 1:1)** Adam – Giving of Law at Sinai (**Gen 1-Exod 19**).
 - b. **Mosaic (Rom 3:19)** Moses to the Cross (**Exod 20 – Acts 1**)
 - c. **Christian / Gospel (Col 3:17)** Throne of Jesus until throne of God (**Acts 2 – Rev 22**).
4. **1 Pet 4:11** was the impetus for **Thomas Campbell’s** “*Speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.*”
 - a. When Campbell said this, **Andrew Munro** rose and said: “*Mr. Campbell, if we adopt that as a basis, then there is an end to infant baptism.*”
 - b. **Campbell** replied: “*If infant baptism be not found in the Scriptures, we can have nothing to do with it.*”
5. During the Reformation **Martin Luther** took the position: “*Whatever is not against scripture is for scripture and scripture for it*” [Handbook of Denominations, pg. 132] – Silence gives one the liberty of action since God did not say “*thou shalt not.*”
6. **Ulrich Zwingli** said: “*What the Bible does not command we may not do.*” This means unless the Bible authorizes it – it must not be done. And so Zwingli gave up images, crosses, indulgences, observing the mass, and the practice of celibacy, and the use of organs in the church on the basis of this principle.
7. Never make this a rule in other things – recipes, etc.

Establishing Authority

1. Already noted the means of establishing authority (Command/statement – Apostolic Example – Necessary Inference {unavoidable conclusion}).
2. This is how we learn anything.
3. This is what we often call the **inductive method**: This method searches and compiles all biblical references to the subject under consideration, including direct statements, approved actions, and necessary implications. Then, when all the evidence is compiled and sifted through using the laws of communication, including contextual considerations, then the true meaning and the current application can be arrived at.
4. **Acts 15:1-24** – It would do well for men to follow this means today.

Respecting Silence

1. See passages in worksheet.
2. **Josh 1:7** “*Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*”
3. **Prov 30:6** “*Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*”
4. Examples:

- a. Nadab and Abihu – (Lev. 10:1-2).
- b. Moses – (Num 20:8-12).
- c. David and the ox-cart (1 Chron 13:7-12; 15:2, 13).
- d. Priests (Heb 7:12-14).

Knowing What God Wants

1. The only way we can know what God wants is if he tells us (1 Cor 2:9-14; 2 Pet 1:3; 2 Tim 3:16-17).
2. If we refuse to respect the silence of God then:
 - a. Peanut butter and Jam on the Lord's Supper
 - b. Rock Bands
 - c. Raffles
 - d. Gyms, rec. centers
 - e. Celebrate Ramadan
3. Alexander Campbell's greatest mistakes centered on not respecting the silence of the scripture. (Missionary society, instruments).

Expediencies

1. Expediency has to do with "**means and method**" that is, the manner in which a given work is accomplished.
2. An expedient in religion is the **best means** or **method** of executing a divine requirement when the **way** to do it is not specified.
3. Noah was given specific instructions (dimensions, wood), and he could not change what was told to him (authorized).
4. However, he was not told which tree (gopher wood) to cut, what to use in cutting (saw or ax), nails, hoists, ramps to load the animals, etc. These would have been expediencies.
5. Num 4:4-6 – Selecting **which** men from sons of Kohath the sons of Levi, to transport the ark of God from could be claimed as an expedient –
6. **BUT** – To select men from another tribe, or to select another method than the one specified was sinful. (Or using a cart instead of carrying).
7. **Basics for ALL Expediencies.**
 - a. WHAT is being expedited MUST first be authorized. "*All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient*" (1 Cor. 6:12).
 - b. An Expedient CANNOT be specified. "*Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.*" (Gen. 6:14).
 - c. An Expedient MUST Edify. "*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*" (1 Cor. 10:23). I.e., it must actually expedite.
 - d. An Expedient MUST NOT violate the conscience. "*For whatever is not from faith is sin.*" (Rom. 14:23). That is, I must not be of the opinion that what I am using is sinful.

- e. An ADDITION to God's Word is NEVER an Expedient. ***"If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."*** (Gal. 1:9).
8. Expediency is not a law – instead it is a course of conduct based upon existing law.
- a. Baptism (expediencies include baptisteries, whirlpools). {Sprinkling is ANOTHER action}.
 - b. **Eph 5:19** (expediencies include songbooks, leaders, pitch, etc). {Playing is ANOTHER music}.
 - c. Lord's Supper (expediencies might include plates, servers). {Toast and Jelly ANOTHER element}.
 - d. **Heb 10:25** (expediencies include house, hall, store front, field, barn, church building).

Answer the Questions