



“Speak Where the Bible Speaks and  
Be Silent Where the Bible Is Silent”

Conclusion:

“And whatever you do in word or  
deed, do all in the name of the  
Lord Jesus...” (Col. 3:17)

# Speak Where the Bible Speaks

“If it were the case that anything not expressly forbidden in the New Testament is permissible in the Christian religion, then we could not only use pianos to accompany our singing but beads to aid our prayers, crucifixes to focus our devotion, and hashish to enhance our sensitivity. We could also initiate an organizational network similar to that which has been protested so strongly in Catholicism or begin financing church projects with bingo games (where legal) on Tuesday evenings. Not one of these things is explicitly forbidden in the New Testament, and no one who denies the legitimacy of the authority principle as outlined above can consistently argue against any of them.” *(Shelly, Rubel. 1987. Sing His Praise—A Case for Acapella Music as Worship Today. Nashville, TN: 20th Century Christian, p. 33-34)*

## Speak Where the Bible Speaks

- It is absolutely critical that every human be able to understand the Bible. It is the book that reveals:
  - How this world was made, Who created it, and how we came to be,
  - Our purpose for being, where we are going, and how to get there,
  - And how to come to know the Creator of this world, how to worship the Preparer of the world to come, and how to obey the Designer of the Way to get there.

# Speak Where the Bible Speaks

- We must:
  - Trust God to tell us exactly what we need to know and do,
  - Trust that He has done so fully and effectively in the Bible,
  - Trust that we can read and understand exactly what we must do,
  - And then do only those things He has specified in His book without augmentation or adjustments.

# When People Act Without God's Authority

- King Saul on his own initiative believed that because he was king, he could offer a sacrifice at Gilgal,
  - 1Sam. 10:8 - “You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.”
- He was told to wait; that excluded all other considerations or options.

# When People Act Without God's Authority

- 1Sam. 13:8-14 - "Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 So Saul said, Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. 11 And Samuel said, 'What have you done?' And Saul said, 'When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 12 then I said, The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD. Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.' 13 And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.'"

# When People Act Without God's Authority

- King David presumed to adjust what God commanded regarding the transportation of the Ark of the Covenant.
  - 1Chron. 13:9-10 - "And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. 10 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God."

# When People Act Without God's Authority

- After consulting the Law, David understood no one was to carry the Ark but the Levites.
  - 1Chron. 15:2, 12-15 - “Then David said, ‘No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever...’ 12 He said to them, ‘You are the heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. 13 For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.’ 14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.”



# When People Act Without God's Authority

- King David had difficulty remembering the law of silence.
  - 2Sam. 7:1-9 - “Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.’ 3 Then Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.’ 4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 ‘Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the LORD: Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built Me a house of cedar? 8 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of great men who are on the earth.’”

## When People Act Without God's Authority

- Since God did not think it and speak it, humankind may not do it.
- It was not authorized, and therefore it was wrong, even though...
  - A good man -- David,
  - Had a good idea -- build a house for God,
  - Consulted a known prophet of God -- Nathan,
  - And was given the prophet's approval -- "Go do all that is in your heart."

# When People Act Without God's Authority

- God resents it when humans combine His authorized worship with their own unauthorized works.
  - Jer. 7:30-31 - “For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight, says the LORD. They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it. 31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.”

# God Has Always Made It Clear That His Word Is Binding

- In the Old Testament
  - Jer. 6:16 - “Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls...’”
  - Jer. 23:16, 32-34 - “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD... 32 Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,’ says the LORD, ‘and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,’ says the LORD. 33 ‘So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, “What is the oracle of the LORD?” you shall then say to them, “What oracle?” ‘I will even forsake you,’ says the LORD. 34 ‘And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, The oracle of the LORD! I will even punish that man and his house.’”

# God Has Always Made It Clear That His Word Is Binding

- In the New Testament
  - Col. 2:20-23 - “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations--  
- 21 ‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle, 22 which all concern things which perish with the using’-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

# God Has Always Made It Clear That His Word Is Binding

- 1Cor. 4:6 - "...That you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other."
- Acts 15:1-2, 24 - "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question... 24 'Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, You must be circumcised and keep the law -- to whom we gave no such commandment.'"

# God Has Always Made It Clear That His Word Is Binding

- Heb. 1:5 - “For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You? And again: I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son’?”
- Heb. 7:14 - “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”

# God Has Always Made It Clear That His Word Is Binding

- It is about service to God by those He created; it is not about men serving themselves and expecting God to be pleased.
  - Ex. 28:1 - “Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.”
  - 2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”



# Speak Where the Bible Speaks

- Joshua 23:6 - “Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left”
- 1Thes. 2:13 - “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”
- Col. 2:7 - “Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”
- Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”