

Following the New Testament Pattern – Establishing Authority

Why Is It Important To Follow The New Testament Pattern?

- The Old Testament law has been abolished – Col 2:14
- God has provided a pattern for us to follow – Acts 2:42, 1 Tim 4:16
- God requires obedience – 1 Pet 1:13-14

Is It Possible To Disobey God While Doing “Good” Things? YES

Examples

- Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant - 2 Sam 6:6-7
- Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire to God – Num 26:60-61
- King Saul offered a sacrifice to God – 1 Sam 15:3-11
- Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it – Ex 17:6, Num 20:8,11-12
- Saul persecuted the early church - 1 Tim 1:13, Acts 9:4-5
- Practices that add to or take away from God’s word.

BE CAREFUL!

Following God’s Plan May Require Doing “Strange” Things

- Old Testament Commands
 - * Command to put blood on door posts – Ex 12:7, 12-13
 - * Naaman told to wash 7 times in the Jordan river – 2 Kings 5:9-14
 - * Joshua told to march around the wall of Jericho – Jos 6:1-5
- New Testament Commands
 - * Forgive those who offend/hurt you – Eph 4:32
 - * Be baptized for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38
 - * Suffer patiently when you have done no wrong – 1 Pet 2:20

How Is God’s Pattern For Today Determined?

- By Direct command
 - * Specific commands
 - Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38
 - Pray without ceasing – 1 Th 5:17
 - * Generic commands
 - Take up a collection – 1 Cor 16:2
 - Go and teach – Matt 28:19
 - “Get out of thy country” – Gen 12:1
 - * Some generic commands may be followed up by specific commands.
 - “Go and teach” is limited by other commands
 - Women forbidden to teach in the church – 1 Cor 14:34-35
 - Teaching so all can understand – 1 Cor 14:27-28
- By An Approved Example
 - * Multiple elders in one congregation – Acts 14:23, Phil 1:1
 - * Assembling on the first day of the week. – Acts 20:7
- By Necessary Inference (forced conclusion)
 - * No infant baptism, faith/repentance required – Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38
 - * Using unleavened bread in communion – Lk 22:7-19

Doing Your Part

- Remember there is a pattern to follow – 1 Cor 11:2
- Understand that your desires may not align with God’s will – Isa 55:8-9
- Honor God by following the New Testament pattern - 1 John 3:24
 - * In daily life
 - * In the practices of the church

What Is Our Goal? Our goal is to follow the practices of the first century church.

How? Adhere to the approved practices of the first century church by not adding what God has not authorized.