

Authority
or
Apostasy?

20% of U.S. citizens
are unbelievers

Evidence

- ◆ Live together without marriage
- ◆ Sodomite marriage
- ◆ Abortions: 'pro-choice'
- ◆ No concept of sin or shame
- ◆ Gambling is epidemic
- ◆ Church obsolete, Bible disrespected

All admit important role of authority

- ◇ **Driving:** must have license
- ◇ **Policeman:** must have badge
- ◇ **Marriage:** must have license
- ◇ **Restricted areas:** must have ID
- ◇ **Mt.21:23:** good question

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

I. Examination Of Authority

What is the cure?

- ◆ Some place authority in the church
 - ◆ Virgin birth, majority vote...
 - ◆ Invent doctrines: Purgatory, Mariolatry, seven sacraments
 - ◆ Change biblical doctrines: sodomy, hell, sprinkling

What is the cure?

- ◇ Some place authority in the church
- ◇ Some place authority in men
 - ◇ Conscience: our guide. Ac.23:1
 - ◇ Feelings: Gn.37:33-35.
 - ◇ Reason: denominations exist because people trust own beliefs.

What is the cure?

- ◇ Some place authority in the church
- ◇ Some place authority in men
- ◇ Others rely on **word of God**
 - ◇ Gn.1:1, right as Creator
 - ◇ Hb.1:1-2, right as Son
 - ◇ Jn.16:13, right as 'Helper'
 - ◇ Jn.16:13; Ac.2:42, as ambassadors
 - ◇ Jn.12:48, standard of judgment

I. Examination Of Authority

**II. Establishment
Of Authority**

Martin Luther

‘Whatever is not expressly prohibited in the scriptures is permissible’ – D’Aubigne

- ✓ Luther rightly fought innovations (Mariolatry, incense, candles . . .)

Luther on trial

- **Luther:** “councils cannot make something right that is not divine right...”
- **Eck:** “You attach more weight to one’s own interpretations of Scripture than to that of popes and councils, the doctors & the universities? ‘Are you the only one that knows anything? Except for you, is all the Church in error?’” –Bainton, 90f.

Martin Luther

‘Whatever is not expressly prohibited in the scriptures is permissible’ – D’Aubigne

- ✓ Luther rightly fought innovations (Mariolatry, incense, candles . . .)
- ✓ Luther was inconsistent.
- ✓ Luther’s approach is popular today.

▫ ‘Where does it say not to?’
▫ Mirror imaging: others see things as you do. Ps.50:21; Ac.26:9

Huldreich Zwingli

‘Whatever is not expressly authorized in the scriptures is prohibited’ – Williston Walker

- ✓ Examines Scriptures to learn God’s will; satisfied with it.
- ✓ Attitude of Scripture itself.

Col.2:23, ‘self-made religion / piety’

Hb.7:12-14, respect for silence...

2 Jn.9-11, boundaries (1 Pt.4:11)

I. Examination Of Authority

II. Establishment Of Authority

**III. Expressions
Of Authority**

'Thus it is argued that the ancient maxim to be applied is that the expression of one thing is the exclusion of another'

–Contracts Transactions And Litigation

1. A recipe lists ingredients and instructions
2. Directions list streets to take...
3. 2 Sm.7

God speaks to us by means of . . .

1. Direct statements (includes commands)
2. Approved examples
3. Forced conclusions

**A test case:
Acts 15**

**Direct
statement
Ac.15:15-17**

**Approved
example
Ac.15:7-11**

**Forced
conclusion
Ac.15:12**

1808: man saw that human creeds were without authority and Scripture was all sufficient

- Proposed: 'Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent.'
- Reply: 'If we adopt that as a basis, then there is an end of infant baptism.'

'Of course, if infant baptism be not found in the scriptures, we can have nothing to do with it.'